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The American Home

More than 200 Xmas Ideas

LE IN PRICE—AND USEFUL AND NICE!
...s you can be Bright and Original. Give the ... Box, for instance . . . such a pretty ...ame! Or the trim, tasteful Colonial Box. ...he kitchen with gypsy-striped towels and ...the Pantry Box. It's fun, too, to make ...with individual Cannon towels, 25c to $2.

FOR A DOLLAR OR MORE—PRESENTS GALORE!
At $1.95 to $2.95 the choice widens, Cannon matched sets grow more luxurious, and the boxes are so pretty that she'll love *them* as much as she loves the towels! The saucy little Hat Box makes you famous for finding "such clever things." And the Plumed Box is an aristocrat . . . send it anywhere with your engraved card!

FIT FOR A QUEEN—IN A BEAUTY-BATH SCENE
With $3.95 to $4.95 you can give gifts in the grand ma... ner! Look for magnificent matched sets of Canno... towels, bath mats and wash-cloths in the Americanno... series. Look for the festive Floral Square and rich Gol... Treasure Chest. There's a bow-tied Wicker Basket, to... that you'll buy and never give away . . . it's that appealing

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"I DROVE THE NEW PLYMOUTH —and that LUXURY RIDE is Simply Marvelous!"

SEE THE LOW-PRICED 1940 PLYMOUTH COMMERCIAL PICK-UP AND PANEL DELIVERY

PEOPLE BY THE THOUSANDS are getting really excited about Plymouth's great *Luxury Ride*...and about its stunning new 1940 beauty and spaciousness!

This new Plymouth is longer, wider, roomier,...10 cubic feet more interior space!

Notice the luxurious new feel in Plymouth's big Floating Power engine... learn what *Superfinishing* of vital engine parts does to power smoothness.

See this great car...and take Plymouth's Luxury Ride *today!* Find out how much *more* low price buys this year!

EASY TO BUY. Your present car probably covers a large part of Plymouth's low delivered price...balance in low monthly instalments.

MAJOR BOWES, C. B. S., THURSDAYS, 9-10 P. M., E. S. T.

NEW LUXURY EVERYWHERE

1. **MAGNIFICENT STYLING**- new grace, luxury, distinction.
2. **BIGGER CAR** throughout—117" wheelbase—wider seats.
3. **INCREASED VISION** through the new, larger safety glass windows and windshield.
4. **THE LUXURY RIDE!** New chassis engineering, new appointments—entirely new ride formula.
5. **SUPERFINISH** of vital engine parts assures new smoothness, longer life.
6. **STEERING POST GEAR SHIFT** standard on all models.

Steering Post Gear Shift at no extra cost...plus new transmission and clutch.

Amola Steel Coil Springs on even lowest-priced models —no extra cost.

1940 PLYMOUTH *The Low-Priced Beauty with the LUXURY RIDE*

I'd heard a lot about Masonite Tempered Presdwood, but never saw it until I went to buy a chair. All the store's display rooms were made of it. The manager said they use Tempered Presdwood because it's a clean, dry board . . . easy to install . . . and they can get really beautiful walls and ceilings with it. What's more, it costs *very little.*

I suddenly realized Tempered Presdwood might enable Larry and me to have our whole bedroom done over, so I made some pencil sketches of those smart model rooms. Sure enough, we found that Tempered Presdwood could go on right over the old walls. It's grainless and moisture-resisting too. It won't warp, chip, split or crack. And it can be painted.

You'd never know the old bedroom now. Our walls are Tempered Presdwood, scored vertically and painted deep blue. The ceiling is light grey. We have a built-in chest of drawers along one wall — Tempered Presdwood, of course. And a handy built-in shelf over our bed for radio and books. P. S.—Larry was so pleased that he bought me *a whole suite* of new furniture.

• **MASONITE TEMPERED PRESDWOOD** *is the ideal, economical material for new building and remodeling. Mail the coupon below for free sample and full information.*

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Address_____

City_____ State_____

Doorway of Mrs. Charles F. Coffman, Harrisonburg, Va.

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"We Know the Value of Storm Sash... my husband's a builder"

Window Conditioning saved them 25% on fuel...now they sit by the windows in comfort

"When the wind howls, the curtains don't blow any more," says Mrs. Lewis Peters, the wife of a building contractor in Marlton, N. J. "We can sit by the windows and be as warm and comfortable as we would be in any part of the room.

"Our house now is free of drafts. The windows no longer steam and fog up. With Storm Sash we can see out no matter how cold it gets.

"Our coal bills used to run around $132 a season and last year it cost us less than $100 to heat our 10-room house. My husband is a builder by trade and he always recommends Storm Sash."

Thousands have had similar experiences. They've saved as much as 30% on fuel; and are no longer bothered with condensation, fogged windows and drafts. They've saved in other ways, too. Moisture that formerly condensed on the windows and ran down and ruined the wallpaper and woodwork finish has been eliminated.

See your local Lumber Dealer. He will give you an estimate and handle the entire job, including F.H.A. financing with No Down Payment. Call him today.

Since you look through two panes of glass instead of one, the quality of the glass becomes doubly important. It costs you no more to get L·O·F Quality Glass—each light bears the L·O·F label. Mail the coupon today for this handsomely illustrated book that tells how Window Conditioning will make your house a better home to live in.

Mrs. Lewis Peters and her two sons who assist Mr. Peters in his contracting business.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
"The fuel savings paid for the Storm Sash in less than three years and now it's all profit."—James Sinclair, Springfield, Mass.

LINCOLN, NEB.
"Ever since we installed Storm Sash our fuel bills have been much lower than any of our neighbors who haven't this protection."
—A. E. Perry, Lincoln, Neb.

BUFFALO, N.Y.
"I can't remember a time since we had Storm Sash when moisture has formed on the windows. It's our best investment."
—John A. Martin, Buffalo, N. Y.

MITCHELL, S. D.
"Since we installed Storm Sash we are free of drafts and we have recommended them to friends and they are delighted."
—Robert W. Edehase, Mitchell, S.D.

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QUALITY GLASS

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THIS BOOK IS *Free!*

LIBBEY-OWENS-FORD GLASS COMPANY...TOLEDO, OHIO

Please send me your free booklet which shows typical examples of economies effected with Window Conditioning and interesting window treatments.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ My home has: [ ] Wood Sash [ ] Metal Sash (Give make.)

State_____ JAH 12-39

"Our Setter's coat was dull and ragged until we started PARD diet"

A certified statement from the B. A. Glisch family, Waukesha, Wisconsin

"Our Irish Setter 'Tipperary's Terry' hasn't always been so beautiful. At eight weeks she was in terrible condition—thin, listless, with coat ragged and dull. But when we tried an exclusive PARD diet, she improved right away. Her coat became full and silky, and she quickly regained normal weight. As for healthy vigor—last July she had 13 fine pups and has nursed them all to health . . . a real record!"

The facts of this case history were sworn to before me on August 18, 1939—Rud. F. Thomann, Notary Public.

Persian Lucky Judy, this splendid 5-year-old cocker, is one of the many dogs fed Pard exclusively at Swift's Research Kennels.

Poor coat and irritated skin, like many other common ailments, frequently due to wrong diet. They are unknown among the dogs raised exclusively on Pard at Swift's Research Kennels!

● Veterinarians are seriously crusading against hit-or-miss feeding . . . because they've found that it's the underlying cause of *many* widespread dog troubles. Not only dietary skin irritation, but nervousness, listlessness and loss of appetite, excessive shedding, bad coat, and other ailments—actually may be symptoms of intestinal disorders and malnutrition from improper feeding.

Many of these crusading veterinarians recommend Pard—because Pard's nutritional balance has been uniquely proved. *Four successive generations* of pedigreed dogs have been weaned to Pard and raised on it without tasting any other food. Not one Pard-fed dog has *ever* had a digestive upset. Not one has ever suffered any of the common ailments which plague less-well-fed dogs! Each has had magnificent health from birth—has been a representative specimen of its breed.

To make sure your own dog is in tip-top condition, have him checked over by a good veterinarian—and to *keep* him that way, feed him Pard regularly!

PARD . . . SWIFT'S NUTRITIONALLY BALANCED DOG FOOD

NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE in making Pard a dependable, healthful ration for your dog. Swift's Nutritional Research Laboratories check samples *constantly*, to make sure each can of Pard contains *every* needed food element—including vitamins and minerals—in correct proportion.

Thanksgiving ushers in the CHRISTMAS SEASON

MARGARET TIPTON WHEATLY

THANKSGIVING begins for us the eventful month leading to one of the greatest festivals of both the calendar and church year. It is a time for merrymaking as well as for thanksgiving. It is the end of a year of toil, the season of rest for the creatures of the earth—and the earth itself.

Thanksgiving to many city dwellers has lost much of its harvest significance, but we are still sufficiently linked to the earth and growing things in this country to appreciate the meaning of harvest. So here are some "truly rural" decorations for the Thanksgiving season.

To get "atmosphere" and the true Thanksgiving feeling into our decorations we recommend, first, a jolly trip to the country. The exhilaration of the crisp, clean country air, the search for the off-the-beaten-path little farms looking for "material" can be an adventure and your "finds" when taken home will give you much joy, making it truly Thanksgiving.

The everyday things of field and garden are most decorative; they are also unusual, because they have not come into wide use as yet for general house decoration. The plumed heads of corn tassels, the bearded grain of wheat and barley, golden ears of corn, quaint scalloped dried squashes and the crook-neck variety, the immense thistlelike seed receptacles of artichoke, to mention only a few, all lend themselves admirably to fall house decoration.

EARS OF POPCORN are amusing, and being in miniature, may fit in with your decorating plans better than the larger ones of field corn. In any event, try to get the corn with the husks on. Use these just as the European peasants do in braiding the pendants. Place heads of other grains, wheat, barley, and small sections of milo maize or other similar types, in among the corn while braiding. Barley and wheat stems should be placed in water for a while before making up the decorations, to soften them and make them pliable. Failing to find corn with the husks on, a good substitute is to drill fair sized holes at the upper, or stalk, end of the cob, and thread natural-colored raffia through to simulate husks. This works very well. Stems of dry vegetables often come off, so that it may be necessary to drill pairs of small holes in the gourds and vegetables at the stem end through which fine wires may be passed to join them onto the strong cord which forms the "backbone" of the swag.

To hasten the drying out of the squashes and gourds, drill small holes in either end to allow for the rapid evaporation of moisture. This will do much to prevent the mildew which tends to attack these apparently dry vegetables. To obtain a shiny surface it is necessary only to wax lightly with a liquid wax, and polish after an hour or so. If the gourds have lost their gay color and present a drab uninteresting monotone of tan and dirty blotches, they can be made into colorful

[*Please turn to page 88*]

FROM SEALED BEAM lights to tapering back, the new Nash is so perfectly streamlined, it literally bores a hole through the air. Even lowest-priced models flash from 15 to 50 MPH in less than 13 seconds flat, high gear.

FRESH AIR without rain, without cold! New Weather Eye magic brings in more June-fresh air — automatically foils changing weather. No stuffy air, dust, drafts, or bugs bother you at any time.

This is the Life *and it's yours!*

YOU CAN TELL by the long, flashing lines of it . . . by the way it bursts ahead of traffic . . . *this 1940 Nash does something to you!*

Thank your stars—*that* isn't figured in the price—or a Nash would cost you a cool million.

You can't even sit in it without your chin going up . . . and a trip's as gay as a midnight sailing to Havana!

First, you take off coats, hats, gloves—for the Nash Weather Eye has more wizardry than ever to change winter into May.

You take the wheel (or it takes *you*—for it seems to read your mind), and home fades far behind.

Don't expect your Nash to keep its dignity on the highway.

For there's a new thrill in the throttle . . . a brand-new *Fourth* Speed Forward that gives you not only a floating, gliding speed, but also terrific passing power with an Automatic Overtake!

Take a short-cut? Sure *this* is the car with that Arrow-Flight ride! On slippery gravel—or straight across a cow-pasture—you can steer with a finger, and hardly know bumps exist beneath your dancing wheels!

So you breathe in deep the fresh, clean air that other drivers don't get—chat and sing in the silence others never know—watch the crazy-quilt of Autumn other eyes are too busy to see.

Then you'll know why some of these new Nash owners have not yet turned back home—why that convertible bed in back is necessary.

• • •

No fooling—it *gets* you! Makes any other car pretty dull business.

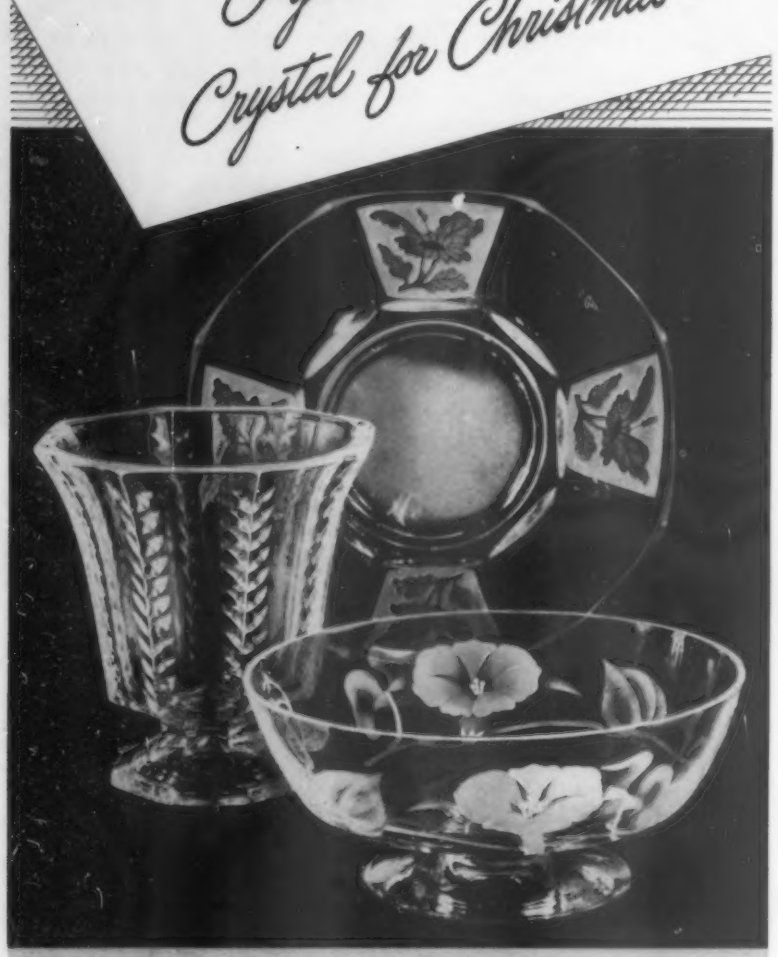
After all, you're only going to live about another 90 years. So see your dealer, and start having your fun in a long-life Nash!

OVERNIGHT TRIPS are *easy* with your convertible bed. Cost *less* with the engine that won in the Gilmore-Yosemite Run (21.25 miles per gallon). Over 1800 dealers to serve you.

Again... **NASH**

IT'S THAT NEW

"To you I love best I give Crystal for Christmas"



You may conspire to hide your Fostoria gifts deep beneath the tree for a Christmas climax, but chances are you'll give them first, impatient to share the thrill that giving brings. For last or first, Fostoria is always an invitation to lasting thanks.

Of all selections, none are more exquisite than the newest handcrafted pieces . . . frosty morning-glories deep laid beneath a smooth lucent surface . . . or a brocade design that stirs the worldliest heart . . . or a polished laurel motif gilding the simple beauty of a lustrous crystal vase.

These three are but significant of the many. You *must* see them all. Get them and give them. Or, happy thought, collect them for yourself.

Ask for Fostoria at department stores, jewelers and gift shops everywhere. Write for leaflet 93-G. Fostoria Glass Co., Moundsville, W. Va.

Christmas Crystal by

Fostoria

MADE IN U.S.A.

Our "FUNNY" Christmases

MARY DICKERSON BANGHAM

THE title above is the author's own, but we submit parents who trimmed a tree in glittering array and over their own disappointment at its effect on their children were still keen enough to understand that festivities must be *shared* to be really enjoyed and promptly inaugurated "family foolishness and the play-spirit because they are so much needed in a world like ours . . . because foolishness helps so very much in binding family affections." . . . Orthodox parents who can play "pirate" and eat Christmas breakfast in burnt cork, their orange juice in gingerale bottles . . . Who around their own hearth hold Christmas Eve services, sing carols and on a happy impulse

wrap a blanket around their "ready-for-bed" child and go out-of-doors to look at a starlit sky then, rather than break the spell, each carries a lighted candle up the stairway to bed. . . . *Here* is a deep understanding of the spirit of Christmas — anything but "funny."

WE ONCE trimmed a Christmas tree with lights and colored balls, with small frosted houses and glass birds, with silver rain and spun-wire icicles and candy canes. Beneath its branches we placed gaily painted wooden animals, soft fuzzy animals, dolls, blocks, picture books, a toy piano, and a circus outfit. We thought of our child, and of how she would clap her hands with joy, of how she would laugh and shout. Our child, next morning, glanced briefly at the glittering array and then spent hours—or so it seemed to us—on a dime-store toy.

Many parents, we found, suffer similar experiences. We finally figured it out—*Some children are shy*, and shy children, like grown-ups when surprise parties pounce down upon them, are *dumb* because they are embarrassed.

Our unorthodox Christmases, therefore, began with the idea that festivities must unfold themselves gradually. We bought a tree from a farmer and took our child along for the ceremony of cutting it down and hauling it home. We trimmed it together.

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American Cyanamid & Chemical Corp.
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Bon Ami Company
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Book-of-the-Month Club, Inc.
Borden Company
Bosco Company
Bountiful Ridge Nurseries
Brand Peony Farms, Inc.
E. L. Bruce Company
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Burgess Seed & Plant Co.
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Dryden & Palmer
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Ferry-Morse Seed Company
Fibre Drum Corporation
Fir-Tex Insulating Board Company
Fitzgibbons Boiler Company
Floralux Company
Florence Stove Company
Florida Citrus Commission
Ford Motor Company
Franco-American Spaghetti
Freezone
G-H Specialty Company
Garden Hose Insecticide Company
Gardenville Bulb Growers
General Card Company
General Electric Company
General Motors Frigidaire Division
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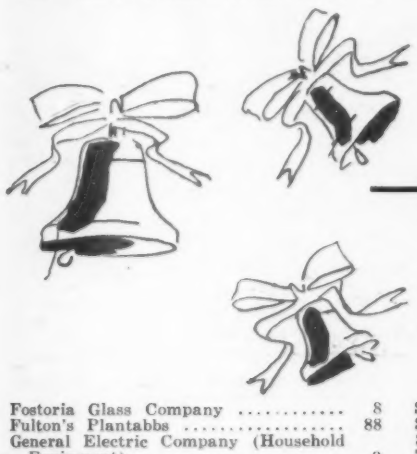

Merry Christmas
—and a Prosperous New Year to American Home Advertisers!

IT IS just seven years ago that we were closing our second issue of THE AMERICAN HOME—the Christmas, 1932, issue of 48 pages for 262,000 readers. Today we are closing our Christmas issue of 92 pages for more than 1,700,000 readers. Our loyal "old" friends, our million and a half new friends, our success—these things we value deeply. But there is yet another possession we have and cherish, one which we should like publicly to acknowledge. This cherished possession is the respect and friendship of our advertisers. Without them, we could not now be closing a 92-page Christmas issue, full of color and teeming with lovely, useful, and beautiful things for American families in this Christmas season of 1939. We realize that without their support we could not have gone on each year making a better and bigger magazine editorially. In that Christmas issue of 1932 we had but 7½ pages of advertising. In this issue, you will read more than 35 pages of advertising. It is business's approval of our editorial job—and, because AMERICAN HOME advertisers represent the best and most progressive businesses in the American scene, we value their approval and appreciate their support. In seven difficult, tenuous years, years in which much editorial integrity went the way that many standards go under great stress and pressure, we are proud to say that we, your editors, have kept faith with you, our readers. And it makes us happy, as indeed it should you, that American business has supported honest editorial principles.

That this, our public avowal of our gratitude and sincere good wishes for each and every AMERICAN HOME advertiser, be more than just a gesture, we have shown in our gift pages only AMERICAN HOME advertised products, hoping that our readers' Christmas giving will make it a truly prosperous New Year for our advertisers. We hope that AMERICAN HOME readers will do their Christmas shopping with AMERICAN HOME advertisers, and again to you, our readers, and to you, our advertisers, a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. And there's a very special greeting I would give. The New York School of Interior Decoration has been in every single issue that I, Jean Austin, have edited. May I wish the N.Y.S.I.D. (to speak in the 1939 initial-manner) a very specially Prosperous New Year! . . . Your Editors.

[Please turn to next page]

"Three little maids from school are we—
We know our sheets from A to Z!"

A—"some sheets are comfortable"

B—"some sheets are serviceable"

C—"Lady Pepperells are both"

FREE — An interesting booklet on "The Wear, Tear and Care of Sheets." Write to the Pepperell Manufacturing Company, 170 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts

You will find the Pepperell name on blankets too.

Yes, and the "Double Value" of Lady Pepperell Sheets is proven . . . by rigid laboratory examinations, by a Good Housekeeping Guarantee and by every standard of the American Institute of Laundering. Is it any wonder that both Lady Pepperells and Pepperell Percales are exceptional sheets? Yet, with it all, these sheets may be enjoyed for as little as $1.29* to $1.49*.

**These prices may be subject to very slight variation due to differences in sizes and shipping costs.*

Germain Seed & Plant Company
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Liza's Gift Shop
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Master Metal Products, Inc.
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William Henry Maule Company
May's Photo Shop
Meets-A-Need Mfg. Company
The Mennen Company
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Milbradt Mfg. Company
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R. H. Shumway Seedsman
Silver Swan Studios
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Siroil Laboratories
Skilsaw, Incorporated
W. & J. Sloane
Adrian Smith
Seymour Smith & Sons, Inc.
Snuggle Rug Company
Solvay Sales Corporation
Southern Pacific
The Spool Cotton Company
The Spring-Air Company
Springhill Nurseries
A. E. Staley Mfg. Co.
Standard Coated Products Corp.
Standard Engine Company
Stassen Floral Gardens
E. C. Stearns & Co.
Stearns & Foster Company
Steiner Products Corporation
B. N. Stephenson
Sterling Craft Company
Storrs & Harrison Company
Stromberg Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co.
Strong Mfg. Company
Stumpp & Walter Company
Sunny Ridge Nursery
Sunset Magazine
Sutton & Sons, Ltd.
Swift's Premium Ham
Syracuse Toolectric Mfg. Corp.
Tampax, Inc.
Three-In-One Oil
Three Springs Fisheries
Tile Manufacturers' Assn., Inc.
Tobacco By-Products & Chemical Corp.
Tomlinson of High Point
Tribal Indian Post
William Tricker, Incorporated
Two-In-One Shelf Paper
Wm. Underwood Company
Union Fork & Hoe Company
Universal Lawn Tool Company
Utica & Mohawk Cotton Mills, Inc.
Vanderley Brothers, Inc.
N. Van Hevelingen
Vaughan's Seed Store
Edward C. Vick
Vigoro
Virginia-Lincoln Furniture Company
Wamsutta Mills
William R. Warner Company
Warren Shade Company
Washington State Apple Commission
Wayside Gardens
Webb Mfg. Company
Webster Electric Company
Weed's National Iris Gardens
Henry Weis Mfg. Company
Welch Nursery
Wellington Sears Company
Wentworth Pictorial Company, Ltd.
Western Maine Forest Nursery
Western Pine Association
Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Company
Wetmore & Sugden, Inc.
W. F. Whitney Company
Oscar H. Will Company
Andrew Wilson, Inc.
Winter & Company
William H. Wise Company
Wittek Mfg. Company
Wm. F. Wittel & Company
Wood Conversion Company
Woodside Gardens
Wool Trading Company
The Wooster Rubber Company
The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company

It's not just Christmas without Children

Paul Frame

OF COURSE there are people who claim that the Christmas spirit is nothing but foolish sentiment; people to whom the day is just another date printed in red upon their calendars. They shrug their well-groomed shoulders and scoff at the sentimentality of Yule logs and bayberry candles, of messed-up kitchens and finger-smudged notes to Santa Claus. They declare that Christmas has become commercialized — a bore. And after they have mailed their conventional greeting cards in a duty-bound manner, fastened a holly wreath to the front door just because all the other smart-looking houses on the block have one, they gingerly hand the janitor and postman crisp one dollar bills—to insure good service for the next year. Then they sit down to a meticulously served dinner in a swanky hotel and sigh that they are glad Christmas is almost over.

[*Please turn to page 66*]

Children are an important and vital part of Christmas; they help to make it the happy time that it is. If you have none of your own this Christmas, why not borrow a child or two from orphanages or schools for the holiday season? To bring pleasure to the children —yes, but also to help make your own Christmas happier

LOUISE PRICE BELL

To men of 40 who want to retire in 15 years

"FIFTEEN years ago I made a discovery that changed my life. I believe it will interest you.

"When I was 40, I was worried about myself and my future. I wasn't getting ahead. I didn't have much money. I seemed to be living in a circle, and I was dissatisfied. I used to dream of being able to relax, forget money worries and enjoy life. I longed for security.

"But dreams like that seemed hopeless. I wasn't rich. I probably never would be. Like millions of others, I would simply live and work and die—spend a lifetime trying to make both ends meet.

You don't have to be rich

"But that was 15 years ago. Now I have retired on a life income. I have no business worries—my security is guaranteed. I can work or play, as I like. Each month the postman hands me a check for $150 and I know that I will receive another $150 every month as long as I live.

"My friends are envious. They want to know how it was possible. How, without earning a princely salary, did I ever manage to retire on a life income? The answer is simple: When I was 40, I discovered the Phoenix Mutual Retirement Income Plan.

"The minute I saw this Plan I realized it was just what I needed. It showed me how to get an income for life beginning in 15 years. It showed me how to get immediate protection for my family in case I didn't live until then. And it even included a disability income for me in case I was disabled before I reached 55 and couldn't earn a living.

"Best of all, this Plan showed how I could do all this with only a fraction of my income. The Plan actually called for far less money than ordinary investment methods require.

"Today, at the comparatively early age of 55, I have the things I want—life-long security, the opportunity to travel, to hunt and fish, to play, to live fully and well. I can laugh at the worries that used to haunt me. I can be sure of comfort and happiness in the years ahead — with a guaranteed income of $150 a month for life."

This story is typical. Wouldn't you like to make sure of your own future? Wouldn't you like to find out, for yourself, how the Phoenix Mutual Plan works? You can get the facts, without obligation, by sending for the free booklet offered below.

Send for Free Booklet

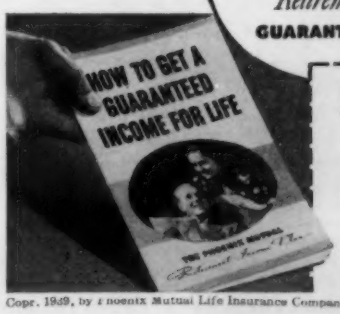
Send the coupon below and you will receive, by mail and without charge, a booklet which tells all about the Phoenix Mutual Plan. In a simple, illustrated way, this booklet explains how to get a life income of $10 to $200 a month or more, starting at age 55, 60, 65 or 70. It shows how the Plan can protect you against emergencies, and how you can fit the Plan to your own needs, large or small. Don't delay. Don't put it off. Send the coupon for your copy *now*.

ESTABLISHED 1851

PHOENIX MUTUAL

Retirement Income Plan

GUARANTEES YOUR FUTURE



Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company
382 Elm St., Hartford, Conn.

Please send me by mail, without obligation, your book describing the PHOENIX MUTUAL RETIREMENT PLAN.

Name_____

Date of Birth_____

Business Address_____

Home Address_____

Copr. 1939, by Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company

Design Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. No. 114,151

Quaker Dinner Cloths

INSPIRED BY HEIRLOOM LACES . . . A GLORIOUS GIFT . . . CHARM FOR YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TABLE

Distinguish your table. Grace it with lace . . . with this exquisite Broderie Venise lace dinner cloth by Quaker. Unlike the fragile original from which it was designed, this lovely cloth is made of fine mercerized yarn that means greater strength, greater durability, extra years of service. Only one of many beautiful Quaker cloths, you can see it at all good stores.

If this particular pattern is not available, order by mail. Specify No. 1380. Size, 72 x 90. $10.95. Napkins, 50¢ each. The Quaker Lace Company, 330 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

ONLY QUAKER DINNER CLOTHS HAVE ALL THESE FEATURES:

To remove spots from Quaker Cloths, sponge with soap and water.

No stretching or shaping after laundering. Just iron on wrong side while damp.

Three-thread construction locks mesh, gives extra strength, holds shape.

Superior yarn and weave make Quaker Cloths heavier than most others.

QUAKER NET CURTAINS · LACE DINNER CLOTHS · SILK STOCKINGS
MADE IN AMERICA BY AMERICANS

—cleverly "done up"

HAZEL SWAYZE

NEXT to decorating the house I think I get more real pleasure out of wrapping packages than anything else. It may be an awful blow to open a beautiful package only to find it's just another necktie—but what is Christmas without a necktie!

I've come across some little tricks in wrapping that are both time-saving and artistic. For instance, I use different colored crayon pencils to write the names or messages. I don't know exactly why, but ink always seems to be so messy, apt to get mixed up with the wrapping materials. And I always put up card tables in the guest room or on the third floor, if I'm having guests, and there I keep all the materials and equipment until the last package is wrapped. In that way I accomplish a lot in spare moments when otherwise it would be too much trouble to get everything out and put it away again.

Another efficiency idea is to have a number of large cartons which can be used for wastepaper. A carton is not so hard to hit as a small basket, and when it's filled just shoot it down cellar and start to fill up another carton. You'd be amazed at the time saved by not having to pick up little snips of this and bigger snips of that.

Pretty packages can be made with inexpensive artificial flowers. One of the smartest packages I made last year was wrapped in red suede paper, tied with white velvet ribbon. In the bow I tied a cluster of tiny frosted white Christmas tree balls. An artificial gardenia would have been just as attractive. I never can make up my mind whether or not the wrapping should suggest the contents or whether it's too much of a giveaway. It so happened that that package contained a box of dusting powder.

Sometimes when I have a largish box of squarish shape that would serve later as a utility box for buttons or wool or something, I decorate the box instead of wrapping it in paper and just tie it with ribbon. Avoid, of course, placing any stickers or scotch tape in such a way as to deface the box when it is opened.

The various metal papers make glittering wrappings, but if one can't afford them, it's always possible to get a sheet or two and put bands of it under the ribbon, or run bands one way and ribbon the other—with attractive results.

This year I made vanilla which I bottled in a dozen charming little bottles, purchased from a wholesale chemist's supply house. When I filled the bottles I sealed them with paraffine dyed different Christmas colors (using regular food coloring) and tied the stopper around the neck of the bottle with a ribbon to match. I packed them in boxes lined with cotton which lent a Christmasy touch and at the same time provided protection against breakage. [*Please turn to page 79*]

Floors of your own design are easy to have today, as demonstrated by this guest room. Here the field is Armstrong's Rose Taupe Jaspé, No. 14, with feature strips of jade and eggplant linoleum. Cemented over felt, the only approved method, this floor should never require refinishing. List of furnishings sent free. Just write.

"Ted, have you ever been in a more perfect guest room?.."

This linoleum floor has given me ideas. Want to hear them?"

"REMEMBER this guest room the last time we were here? It was nice, but now it's—oh, so glamorous! And *I* know the magic Bess used to change it! It's right under our feet! Now don't look so puzzled—I mean the Armstrong's Linoleum. Ted, can't you just see a floor like this in our own spare room? It would literally transform it!"

And Armstrong's Linoleum is transforming rooms, may we add, in thousands of homes the country over! For even an "ugly duckling" room takes on new beauty when Armstrong's Linoleum brings smart color and design to that largest single area, the floor.

The fashion-setting designs you will see today are a far cry from the linoleum patterns of even a few years ago. Why, you can even design your own special floor—as was done in the room above—with the help of Armstrong's Linostrips and Custom-Craft Motifs.

So, by all means, visit your local linoleum merchant and see the new Armstrong Floor creations before you decorate. And learn anew their practical advantages of easy cleaning, long wear, and cushioning comfort underfoot.

Be sure to look for the name Armstrong's on the back of the goods you buy.

"Beauty Hints for the Home Decorator" brings you a bookful of smart room ideas illustrated in full, natural color. Write for it, enclosing 10¢ to cover postage (outside U.S.A., 40¢). Armstrong Cork Company, Floor Division, 3912 Pine Street, Lancaster, Pa. (Makers of cork products since 1860)

ARMSTRONG'S LINOLEUM FLOORS

for every room (A) in the house

PLAIN • INLAID • EMBOSSED • MARBELLE • JASPÉ • MONOBELLE • PRINTED • ARMSTRONG'S QUAKER RUGS *and* LINOWALL

Here is our American version of an old Italian tradition—a Florentine counterpart of our Christmas tree.

Inspired by Rosalye A. Galanti's article in this issue and painted by Harrie Wood. Details on page 66.

A Merry Christmas to you all!

"Hang the Hall with Holly"

CHRISTMAS again! "The most joyous, the tenderest, and the most significant of all Christian festivals. Mistletoe and holly, Christmas carols and blazing hearths within, cheery candles for those without. Christmas greetings and Christmas presents, but best of all—the Christmas tree . . . Because it is the focal point of the season's festivities, the tree should receive more attention than it does. It isn't enough that one should jump into the car a night or two before Christmas Eve and pick up a tree at the nearest filling station or grocery store, and then dash into the five-and-ten just before closing time and take what is left in the way of ornaments. The Christmas tree should be a matter of more moment. It should be planned with care, a co-operative family enterprise in which the oldest and the youngest have a part . . ." So writes Hazel Cederborg, and so write we, adding, that all the house should be "hung with holly," the Christmas spirit rampant throughout. On these pages are ideas for—well, everything but the furnace we guess. However, if your furnace is one of those handsome shiny red jobs, you can hang some holly on that too! You'll find nothing very "smart" herein, because quite honestly we are just a little tired of "smart" Christmases! Put us down as "old timers," but to us Christmas is red and green. We don't tackle kindly to blue and silver for Christmas. So here's our red-and-green Christmas issue brimming over with sincerity and genuineness in the good old-fashioned way—and the same to you! Get off to a good start by reading Mrs. Cederborg's jolly ideas on families and Christmas trees —page 87. Read, too, what Mary Dickerson Bangham has to say about "sharing" the fun and gaiety of a Christmas tree with children—page 8.

The beautiful wreaths on this page and the decorations on the following were especially arranged for us by Helen Perry Curtis. Description on page 62.

Hanging wreath of balsam, pine, and holly, with lots of fruits. Base of heavy wire suspended by four red ribbons

More formal wreaths and swags of formal material scaled to the places they are to decorate. This and the wreath above designed by Helen Perry Curtis. More details on page 62

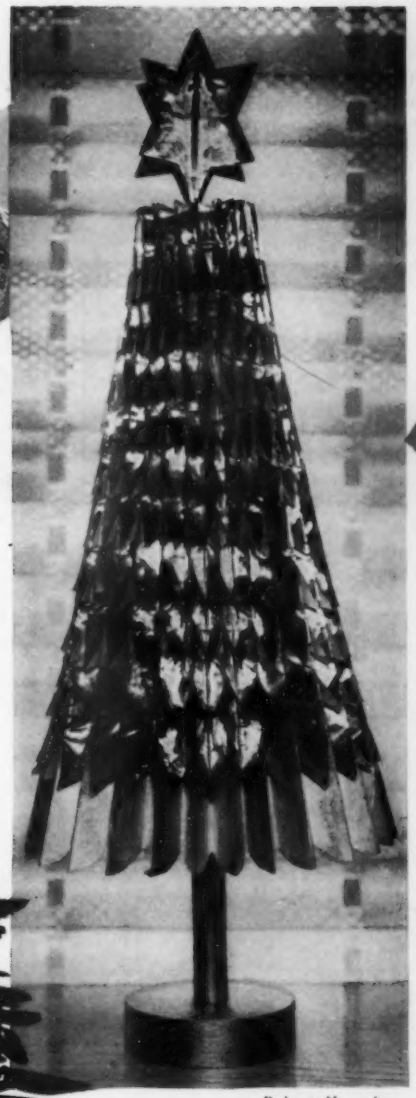
Fred R. Dapprich

TO MAKE this elegant Regency wreath you need only simple materials and very limited artistic ability. Cut gold corrugated paper into two-inch squares, then shape like leaves. Fasten them to a cardboard circle base and put a Venetian paper silver bow at the bottom. To make cherub children cut table croquet balls in half for heads, split a small dowel lengthwise for necks, add silver paper wings and white corrugated paper waists. One of Ellen Sheridan's designs. See page 70.

DID you ever say, early in December, "Well, this year we won't do anything at Christmas," and then on Christmas Eve with a sinking heart and dull feeling down where gingerbread and mulled cider ought to be lurking, wish oh so terribly that you'd bought a tree and asked someone for supper or eggnog by the fire? . . . Recipe for this sort of panic by Lucia Moore, page 85

"WE, AS first-generation Americans, had adopted in one fell swoop all the English and American 'Christmasisms'," says Rosalye Galanti, "and of the simple, sincere Christmas customs our parents brought from Italy, not one remained that our children would always associate with Christmas." Read on page 49 how, by turning to the beautiful story of Christmas, Mrs. Galanti found a way of celebration that combines the best features of old-world and new-world Christmases.

Glittering tree is made of shiny gold and silver paper pasted to fan-folded wrapping paper. Paint the wood base and trunk gold. Mrs. Sheridan gives details on page 70



Robert Humphreys

Paul Frame

Kneeling angels by David Wood

F. M. Demarest

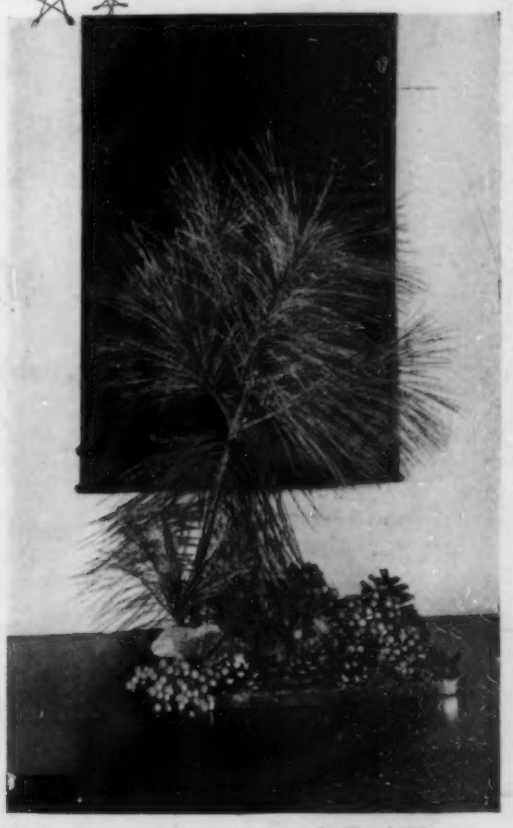
THE things that you and the children can make for your tree to give it the special air of grace that makes it a family tree. Paper cut-outs that you haven't done since the year one, and strings of popcorn, and ribbons of cranberries, decorated cookies and huge plates of popcorn balls to pass to the admiring neighbors who come to see your tree.

Harrie Wood

Great sprays of pine with big cones are lovely on the gold frames of paintings. Decoration by Helen Perry Curtis

WE'RE all children under the skin especially at holiday season. Then the child-who-used-to-be creeps back in all of us. Sophisticated women hang sheer hose beside youngsters' woolen socks . . . staid bankers play with new electric trains . . . grandparents help prepare for Santa Claus---LOUISE PRICE BELL

Karl Obert



Decoration in the entrance hall of Mrs. Harry I. Miller. Pine with rocks, mountain ash berries, and various types of small brown cones in a flat brass tray

Wooden bowls come out of the kitchen to make a tree laden with fruit says Ellen Sheridan on page 70

Two huge stovepipe candles in brake-drum sticks painted red and wound with holly, they throw a fine bright holiday light

Hang a gay basket on your door this Christmas. It can be beautiful and individual, says Mrs. L. S. Stearns. More on page 60

Fred R. Dapprich

Ellen Sheridan describes this and the decoration in the lower right-hand corner on page 70

Wilkins W. Wheatly

Three tinkling bells tied to spruce branches go on the welcoming front door

Sketches by Harrie Wood

MARGARET TIPTON WHEATLY tells you how to do swags of bearded grain of wheat and barley; scalloped dried squashes; golden ears of corn or popcorn; seed pods, gourds, and vegetables to bring the joy of the harvest season into your home and usher in the Christmas season. Page 6, please.

Karl Obert

G. W. Romer

Thinking of poinsettias as tall, single-stemmed holiday pot plants, imagine the glamorous beauty of this hedge in Coral Gables, Florida!

Pine, bamboo, and deep rust colored mums repeat color and design of Chinese vases. Or use just the greens for festive but inexpensive holiday decorations

Home of Mrs. Anna S. Holmes

The Nativity Scene, a homemade reproduction described in the article on page 49

Rosalye A. Galanti

Harrie Wood

Loretto C. Kiley

Poinsettias make a window garden. Read about it page 84

DESIGNING and landscaping a snow village in his own fireplace was fourteen-year-old William C. Mayer, Jr.'s, contribution to the Christmas decorations last year. The base was crumpled newspaper, piled high for snowbanks. Houses were placed in position and colored tree lights installed. Over all was placed non-inflammable cotton. Then fir trees in various sizes, a mirror lake with deer beside it, a skier and his friend, all found natural places. A red light under a few Christmas tree sprigs provided a miniature bonfire. The final touch was the generous sprinkling of glistening white snow.

Shining Christmas tree balls and pine for a door basket

Fun and Food

F. M. Demarest

High Tea—for serving large crowds formally yet inexpensively. Here, a table we set in our best "company" manner for McCutcheon's. Details on page 56

Robert Humphreys

"NATURALLY the Christmas festivities center around the family dinner. Magazines are filled with suggestions for sumptuous menus, recipes to round out the feast, even directions for appropriate table decorations. There's just one thing missing—the stunts and games that add so much jollity to family gatherings of mixed ages, that fill in those necessarily long stretches between courses if the family board is a long one." And so, on page 52 Clifford Parcher begins fun and stunts at the family table even before the turkey is carved and thinks of things to keep the fun rolling when dinner's over and everybody is lingering at the table, either loath or completely unable to move as the case may be.

A large pumpkin or a banana squash makes a colorful, unusual table centerpiece. Margaret Tipton Wheatly tells you how. Page 6

Old St. Nick, this time made of a rice ball, funnels and such, holds popcorn. How to make it? Turn to page 70

for the Holidays

Popcorn Man by Ellen Sheridan. See page 10

Photographs by Walter Beebe Wilder

Beulah Kuh believes parties should be a lark, not a headache. Her rules for making a party click are simple. Page 65. Table below done 'specially for us

IN THE days of old a Florentine sculptor met a royal emergency by carving a table decoration out of butter to the delight of his sovereign. We may not all be as talented as that Italian artist nor can we carve lions out of butter as he did. But given a plain loaf of bread, a good sharp knife, and one small hour, anyone can have a gorgeous time and produce a centerpiece that for uniqueness and charm would easily equal the butter lion of the middle ages, cause the gingerbread abode of Hansel and Gretel to pale, melt and dissolve with envy! Turn, don't run, to page 59 for more about this idea.

"... somehow my Christmas meant more to me because of candlelight and fog, and because I hadn't struggled and hurried, and been modern"—LUCIA MOORE. Read page 83

Table setting, Higbee Company, Cleveland

For the Christmas tree buffet tab white wire trees on blue cloth and snow wooden sleigh filled with gilded fr

It just isn't Christmas without children, and if you have none of your own this Christmas, borrow one or two suggests Louise Price Bell on page 13

Parade Studio

Your guests cannot eat the golden apples, but read what Elsa Conners will give them to eat on page 34

Mrs. J. Fred Essary and Mrs. Francis H[illegible] one of the Sunday morning breakfasts. Right, Dr. [illegible]arence Lee Miller

Photographs by Jackie Martin

Mrs. Arthur H. Vandenberg with Hon. Edith Nourse Rogers and Mr. Pendleton Hogan

I was brought up on the theory that "it costs money to entertain," and when I was a young matron nothing happened to dispel this illusion. My husband was active in local politics and eventually became governor of the state in which we lived. Then he was elected to the United States Senate, and for nearly two decades I followed the prescribed pattern for giving parties in Washington: large luncheons, large dinners, and receptions which were largest of all. Apparently these were successful, for I received very few 'regrets' when I issued invitations. But they were not marked by much originality, and they certainly cost money. In my house the guests saw the same kind of decorations and ate the same kind of food that they did in dozens of other houses; and the monthly bills from my grocer and my florist were calculated to cause a family scene or a nervous breakdown, in fact very often did.

Then suddenly my whole scheme of life was changed. My husband decided to retire [illegible] public office; my own career, on the [illegible] became increasingly absorbing. I had written for years but now I began [illegible] at a pace which I had never [illegible] was every indication that existence should be modified. I moved from a pretentious house to a simple apartment and carefully considered both my time and my income. These were alike so limited that I decided to cut corners in every possible way and one method seemed obvious—I would stop having company until the new novel was entirely finished and the very badly battered budget balanced at last.

But force of habit was too strong for me. I am a gregarious person, and I missed gathering congenial groups around me. I missed it so much that I decided to keep on doing it, even though this might mean working later at night or economizing in some other direction. Then for the first time I seriously asked myself the questions which should have been answered long before: 'Does it really need to take so much time and cost so much money to have company? Couldn't I give parties that people would enjoy just as much even if they weren't like everybody else's—perhaps *because* they weren't like everybody else's?'

So writes FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES.

So chimes THE AMERICAN HOME! Mrs. Keyes is perhaps Washington's most popular hostess and she concludes her inspiring, practical article on page 63 with the simple,

Presiding at the coffee urn is Hon. Mary T. Norton with Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr.

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

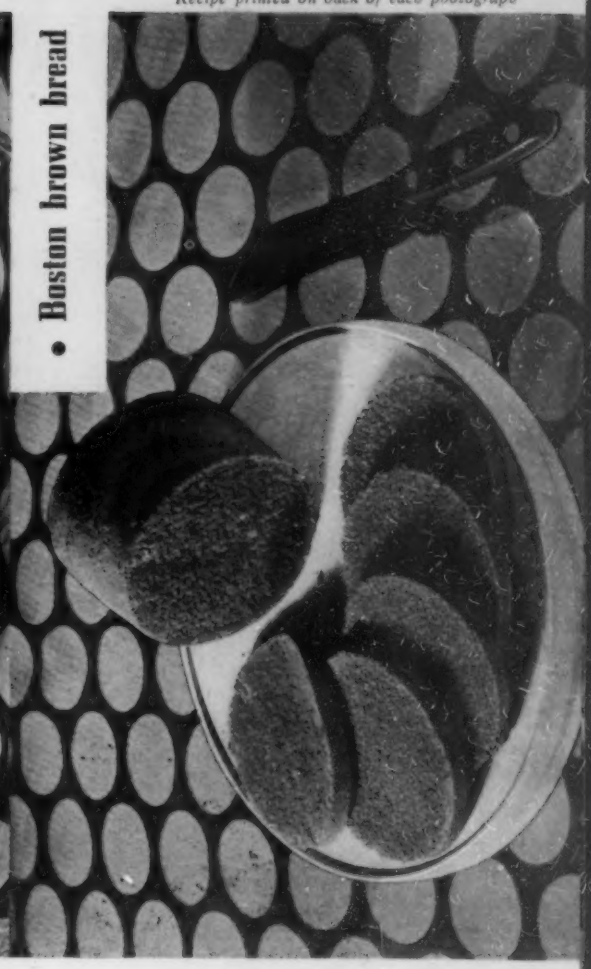
• baked beans

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

• woodsman's delight

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

• Boston brown bread

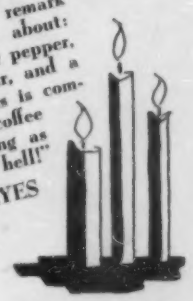


F. M. Demarest

sincere statement that she has "written this article with the hope of helping some other woman to find out sooner than I did how outmoded is the old theory that it costs money to entertain." And we have used her article in this Christmas issue of ours because we believe that of all times of the year, the Christmas season is the one when to have our friends around us makes us happiest. That we can have large crowds, without heavy expense to take all the fun out of it, we have proved on many pages herein. Mrs. Keyes' ideas seem to us particularly adaptable for high school or college boys and girls, by whom large crowds and simple food are preferred far above fancy "fixins." And we suggest, too, that you try a breakfast party for your own adult crowd. First, because it is easy on yourself and your purse, at a time when there are so many calls —on both! Secondly, because an invitation to breakfast will be more of a treat to the women you know than just another evening party. And last, but not least, the rest of your day and evening is free. Page 63, please.

MY MOTHER, who dressed green salad better than anyone I have ever known, used to remark wisely as she tossed her lettuce leaves about: "This takes a sage for salt, a coward for pepper, a spendthrift for oil, a miser for vinegar, and a crazy man to mix them altogether." This is comparable to the French adage that coffee should be "as black as night, as strong as death, as sweet as love, and as hot as hell!"

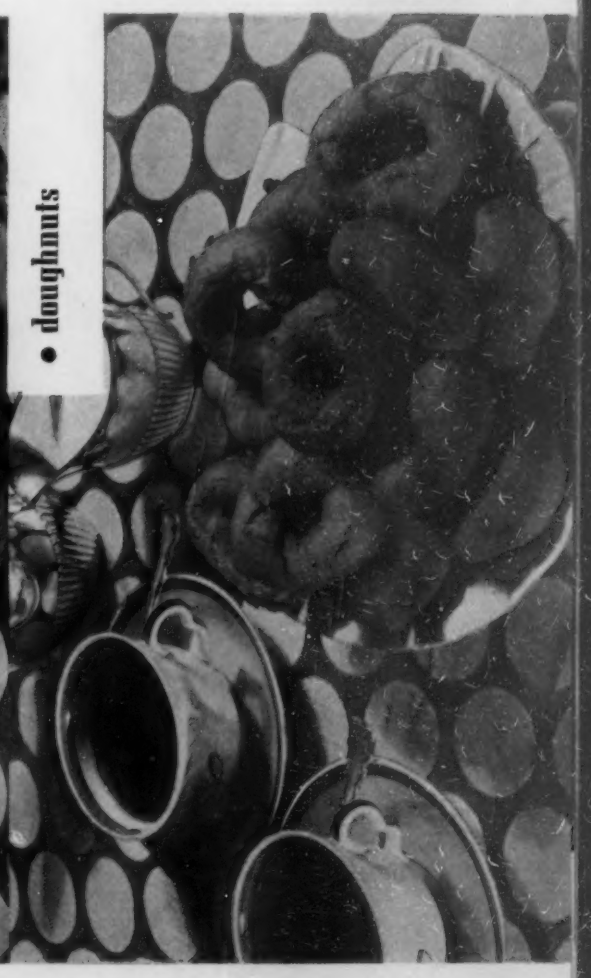
FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES



• codfish balls

• chipped beef and mushrooms

• doughnuts



• • doughnuts

Mix and sift flour, baking powder, salt, spices. Add sugar to eggs, beat until light, add melted butter. Lightly stir in flour and milk, mix until all ingredients are combined. Turn out on floured board. Roll out about ½ inch thick, cut with floured doughnut cutter. Fry in deep fat (365°F.). Turn with fork as they rise to top. When brown drain on unglazed paper. Makes 2 dozen.

- 4 to 4½ cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 2 tablespoons melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup milk

Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes
Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• chipped beef and mushrooms

Melt in frying pan..... 4 tablespoons butter or margarine
Add and stir until frizzled..... 7 oz. chipped beef

Blend .....½ cup butter or margarine
with .....½ cup flour
Add gradually and cook
until thickened ..... 4 cups whole milk

Combine with chipped beef and add.... 1 4-oz. can (½ cup) sliced mushrooms, drained
2 tablespoons chopped pimiento

Serve on hot buttered toast or toasted English muffins.
Serves 10

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• codfish balls

- 1½ lbs. dried salt codfish
- 2 medium sized potatoes
- 3 egg yolks

Soak codfish overnight in cold water. In the morning, drain and cover with cold water and boil until tender. Boil potatoes and mash as for mashed potatoes, adding salt, pepper, and piece butter size of an egg. Add cream and whip until light and fluffy. Mince codfish and add to potatoes (there should be at least 2¼ cups mashed potatoes) and then yolks of eggs well beaten. Shape into balls. Fry in deep fat (390°F.) until a golden brown. Drain on unglazed paper. Makes about 27 balls.

Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes
Tested in The American Home Kitchen

WATCH AND SEE if those youngsters who are most swing mad won't also sing the Christmas carols loudest and with most enjoyment. They love the spontaneous, and you can make the singing of Christmas carols on Christmas Eve the jolliest, most spontaneous thing about the Christmas festivities!

Working off too much dinner is something we've all wanted ideas on, for in spite of emphatic resolutions that "never again. . . ." etc. we just always DO eat too much, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas. And here's Clifford Parcher with stunts that are really great fun, not-too-energetic ones for immediately after the great gorging, now that dinner's settled, and going great guns for late afternoon—none of them interfering with the leisurely exchange of family news and gossip. Turn to page 54.

• Boston brown bread

Mix dry ingredients. Add molasses and milk. Fill greased 2-lb. brown bread tin or two 1-lb. tins. Cover closely and steam 3½ hours.

Note: 1 cup floured raisins may be added to batter if desired. Fill molds only ⅔ full and use an additional one.

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1½ teaspoons soda
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ¾ cup molasses
- 1 cup sweet milk

Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes
Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• woodsman's delight

Sift into a bowl..... 4½ cups flour
10½ teaspoons baking powder
6 tablespoons sugar
1½ teaspoons salt

Beat slightly ..... 3 eggs
Add ..... 4½ cups milk
3 tablespoons melted shortening

Add to dry ingredients, mixing just enough to moisten. Bake large pancakes on a hot griddle. This recipe will make enough for 5 large (about 10") cakes.
Brown in frying pan.....3 lbs. sausage meat
Arrange sausage and pancakes in layers. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• baked beans

- 6 cups (3 lbs.) navy beans
- ¾ lb. fat salt pork
- 6 teaspoons baking soda
- 1½ teaspoon dry mustard
- 1½ cups molasses
- 4½ teaspoons salt

Pick over and wash beans. Cover with cold water and let stand over night. In morning, drain, put in large kettle, cover with water and add soda. Bring slowly to boil and cook until the skin loosens and turns back when a few are taken up on a spoon and gently blown upon. Drain and blanch by letting cold water run over them. Place in bean pots. Wash salt pork, score rind, cut in half and bury in beans. Combine salt, mustard and molasses in small bowl and fill up with boiling water. Pour over beans dividing evenly between pots if more than one is used.

Fill pots with boiling water until it just shows at top. Cover and bake slowly 6 hours in a moderate oven (350°F.). Add more water if necessary. Remove cover last half hour to brown. Serves 10.

Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes
Tested in The American Home Kitchen

Photograph printed on back of each recipe
Photograph printed on back of each recipe
Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Recipe submitted by FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES
Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

F. M. Demarest — *Centerpiece arranged by Marion M. Mayer*

Jocose Mr. Eggplant rides to the feast on a sturdy but handsome pumpkin cart drawn by three strutting turkeys. **More about him on page 77**

Old glass from the collection of Mrs. George J. Brown

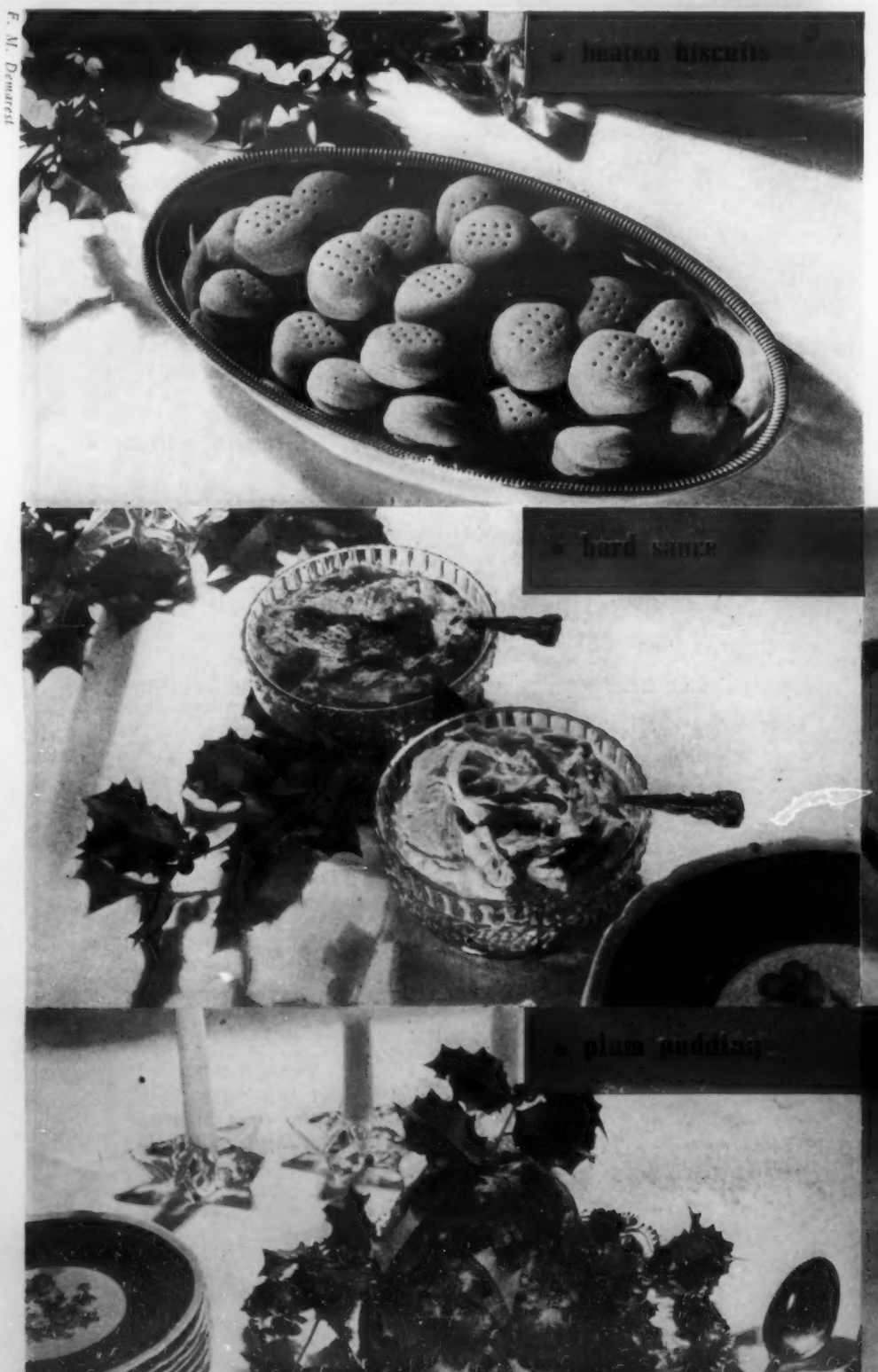
Photograph by Z. Alexander

Here is the Holiday Dinner at its bountiful best, the portly turkey stuffed almost to bursting, cranberries, squash and all the fixings, white damask, old glass, and fruit heaped high—simple but hospitable. Read Doris Hudson Moss's holiday dinner story on page 80

Why not give food of one kind or another to the menfolk? They fuss more over a Christmas cheese than over a dozen real pearl studs. One year my father crusaded all summer for a newfangled type of coffee pot, so we innocently gave him one for Christmas. And, I might add, we've never been allowed to touch the coffee since—HAZEL SWAYZE

Hi Williams

SOME smart tea people once proved to us that tea for eight (including milk or lemon) cost exactly eighteen cents! But even the addition of dainty sandwiches and fancy cakes for a beautiful tea party won't bring the cost very high. Or serve tea things all on one tray without fuss and feathers and sip it before the fire. Think about a tea as a way of entertaining around Christmas. Tea food, page 56; etiquette, page 51.



• beaten biscuits

F. M. Demarest

• hard sauce

• roast turkey oyster stuffing

• plum pudding

• roast suckling pig onion stuffing

New England Style

*Oyster Bisque

†Turkey with Oyster Stuffing

Turnips Mashed Potatoes *Fried Celery Hearts

Rolls Cranberry Sauce

†Plum Pudding and Hard Sauce or †Mince Pie

Coffee

† *Recipes given in this issue*

* *Recipes from The American Home Basic File*

THE things we have for Christmas dinners are traditions with which we do not approve of tampering. Perhaps your home is in the South and to you Christmas means fireworks, the curious scent of long leaf pine, magnolia leaves and boxwood too, and the crusty smell of suckling pig on his bed of apples and sweet potatoes. Or if it's on the wide plains of the Middle West there must be a wide fat goose in the oven fairly bulging with sausage and chestnuts, and sharp apple sauce as icy cold as the north wind. And for the Far West, roses and a bouncing turkey with a wonderful fruit and olive and chestnut dressing. Or perhaps, as it does to me, the sight of snowflakes means a golden turkey with oyster stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed golden turnips, and the luscious plum pudding of old New England!

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

• plum pudding

½ lb. (2 cups) flour
½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons cinnamon
2 teaspoons cloves
1½ tablespoons nutmeg
½ lb. raisins, chopped
¾ lb. currants
½ lb. sultana raisins, chopped
2 oz. almonds, chopped, blanched
3 tablespoons molasses
1 lb. soft bread crumbs
2 cups milk
4 eggs, well beaten
1 lemon, juice and rind
6 oz. suet, chopped fine
1¼ lbs. brown sugar
½ cup brandy

Sift flour with spices and salt; add to raisins, currants, and almonds. Pour milk over bread crumbs. Combine all ingredients and mix together thoroughly. Pour into 2 large molds and steam about 6 hours.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• hard sauce

With electric mixer, or rotary beater, cream until light and fluffy..... ½ cup butter, or margarine
Gradually add, and beat thoroughly.....1½ cups confectioners' or brown sugar
Add very slowly, beating continually..... ⅓ cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
Place in sauce dish. Make depression in top of mound and fill with..... 2 tablespoons brandy (optional)

Let stand at room temperature until brandy has permeated through the hard sauce. Makes enough to serve 8 people.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• beaten biscuits

Sift together ..... 4 cups flour
¼ teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt
With two knives, cut in..... 2 tablespoons shortening
Add, to make stiff dough.....½ cup cold milk
½ cup ice water

Turn onto a board and knead thoroughly. Then beat with the far end of a rolling pin until the dough blisters and cracks, about 30 minutes. Keep dough in a thick mass by folding it over after each two or three whacks with the rolling pin.

Roll dough ⅓ to ½ inches thick, cut biscuits 1½ inches diameter. Prick 3 times with four-pronged fork. Bake in moderately hot oven (375°F.) 30 minutes or until light beige in color. Usually served cold. Makes 32 biscuits.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• roast suckling pig onion stuffing

10 lb. suckling pig
6 cups bread cubes, firmly packed
2 cups hot stock or water
1½ cups chopped onions
½ cup butter or margarine
½ cup chopped celery tops
¼ cup minced parsley
2 eggs, beaten slightly
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon pepper
3 teaspoons sage
2 teaspoons poultry seasoning

Pour hot stock over bread cubes. Sauté onions in butter until tender and lightly browned. Add celery tops and parsley. Combine all ingredients.

Clean and stuff pig. Close cavity, and place on rack in uncovered pan in kneeling position. Sprinkle with salt, brush with melted butter and pour 2 cups boiling water in pan. Cover pig with buttered paper and roast in moderate oven (350°F.) 3½ hours, basting every 15 minutes with drippings from pan. Remove paper last ½ hour. To serve, arrange pig on platter on bed of watercress. Place a small red apple in its mouth and cranberries in the eye sockets.

Note: the pig may be placed on a bed of apples and sweet potatoes while roasting, in lieu of the rack. Serves 10.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

• roast turkey oyster stuffing

16 lb. turkey
½ cup chopped onion
½ cup butter or margarine
1 pt. oysters and liquor
8 cups bread cubes, firmly packed
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons minced parsley

Cook onions in ½ the butter until tender. Add well-drained oysters to remaining butter, melted, and cook until well plumped. Chop oysters coarsely. Combine all ingredients and stuff lightly into the cavity of turkey which has been rubbed with salt. Truss turkey; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast uncovered in a slow oven. Place pieces of body fat, removed in dressing, over breast bone and leg ends to prevent over browning. Bacon or salt pork strips may also be used. Baste occasionally with drippings during roasting.

Temp: 300°F. Time: 18 to 20 min. per lb. (weight turkey dressed)

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

Southern and Southwestern Style

Shrimp Paste Appetizer

†Roast Suckling Pig—Onion Stuffing

***Onions in Jackets** **Squash** **Yams**

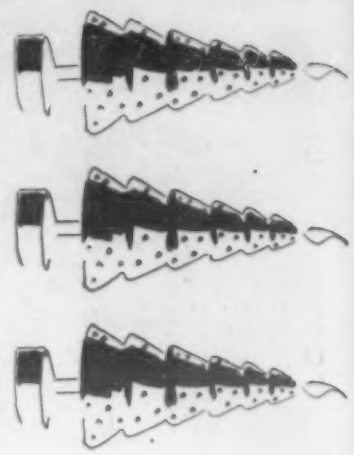
Watermelon Pickles ***Glazed Apple Rings**

Rolls ***Tomato Preserves**

†Dark Fruit Cake **†Hot Brandy Sauce** **Coffee**

† *Recipes given in this issue* * *Recipes from The American Home Basic File*

Photograph printed on back of each recipe



Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Forget not one friend, two or four legged, winged or pedestrian. Short of the whipping cream, the neighbor's chickens, and the best apple on the tree, indulge the family pets too, and the thieves who stole your cherries and corn

Whatever your traditions, we have printed three widely different menus and their recipes. Christmas is not the time to wander too far afield. Too many things change too quickly in the strange world we live in. Wherever it is humanly possible, with all due humility and not a little thankfulness, let us fervently cling to the old traditions for a simple, bountiful board and an ample and gracious tree this Christmas. There is no particular use in going into the solid comforting reasons for maintaining our Christmas customs, in their spirit, but it is pleasant to know they exist and once a year to lay aside all other points of view and fairly wallow in the happy holidays.

† Recipes given in this issue * Recipes from The American Home Basic File

F. M. Demarest

In the Middle Western Style

†Fruit Cup

†Roast Goose with Water-Chestnut Sausage Stuffing
(Recipe, Nov. '39, A. H.)

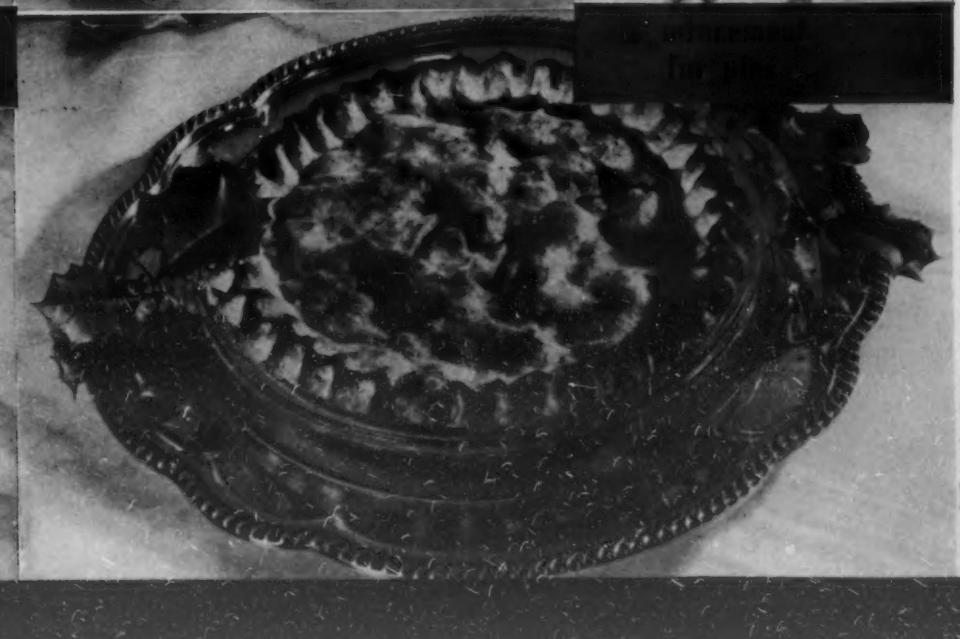
Mashed Potatoes Turnips Boiled Whole Onions

†Fried Apples †Pickled Beets

Rolls

†Mince Pie or *Pumpkin Pie Coffee

† Recipe given in this issue * Recipe from The American Home Basic File



Recipe printed on back of each photograph

Recipe printed on back of each photograph

CHRISTMAS, like some other gentle thing we've heard of, starts at home so wherever we may be, let's do it in the grand old way. We like to think that we have found three traditional menus that will please the largest groups. Much as we would have enjoyed it, we could not indulge in small sectional specialties, but these come from genuine people with real old-time habits and because they know why we wanted them, just as a little extra gift to tuck in the toe of your stocking, they have let us have treasured old recipes. Your health on Christmas and for the coming year, and for mercy's sake, carve!

THE home is the heart of Christmas—no one will deny that. But don't forget that there is an entire year in which household repairs may be made and woodwork and windows washed . . . but only a short time in which to pack all the Christmas joy and sparkle that the season will hold. That is why parents who are wise will ignore all unnecessary routine that interferes with holiday preparations and jollity. Youngsters never notice that the kitchen needs a fresh coat of paint, that there is dust behind the books; they would far rather come home to a house fairly bursting with suspicious clues and intriguing aromas, than to a scrupulously clean menage which radiates no more exciting odors than those of turpentine, soapsuds, and fresh furniture polish!—LOUISE BELL PRICE

• • • pickled beets

Boil together for 15 minutes.....
- ⅓ cup cider vinegar
- ⅓ cup tarragon vinegar
- 1⅓ cups beet juice (from can)
- 1 two in. stick cinnamon
- 15 whole cloves
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

Strain over ..... 2 #2 cans whole beets

Let stand overnight or pour into jars and seal. Drain beets; serve hot or cold. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• roast goose

Have goose cleaned and dressed. Singe well. Rinse out cavity, dry thoroughly, and rub with salt blended with ginger. Lightly pack goose with stuffing. Fasten skin over neck with skewer. Close cavity and tie legs close to the body. Rub skin with garlic; prick skin well with fork. Place on rack in uncovered roasting pan and cook in a moderate oven.

Temp: 350 F.

- 12 lb. goose
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- cut clove of garlic

stuffing

- 2 x recipe for water-chestnut sausage stuffing (*A.H. recipe, Nov. '39*)

Time: about 25 min. per lb. (weight goose, dressed)

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• fried apples

Do NOT peel or core apples, but cut in ¼ to ½ inch slices. Melt a small amount of the butter and shortening at a time in a frying pan. When hot add some of the apple slices and cook slowly until nearly tender; sprinkle with brown sugar and brown on both sides. Serves 10.

An interesting variation: Melt fat in frying pan; when hot, add layers of sliced apples (skins left on) and sliced onions. Cook slowly until both onions and apples are done.

- 12 firm red skinned apples
- Equal parts butter (or margarine) and other shortening, for frying
- Brown sugar

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• mincemeat for pies

- 4 lbs stewing beef
- 2 lbs. beef suet
- 2 lbs. apples, pared and cored
- 1 lb. raisins
- 3 lbs. currants
- 1 lb. dark brown sugar
- ½ lb. citron, cut in thin slices
- 1 lb. candied lemon peel, cut fine
- 1 lb. orange peel, cut fine
- 2 whole nutmegs grated
- 6½ teaspoons salt
- 4 tablespoons ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons ground allspice
- 2 tablespoons ground cloves
- Juice and grated rinds of 6 lemons
- 1 cup brandy
- 2 cups sherry

Boil meat until tender. Reserve 1½ cups stock. Put meat, suet, apples, and raisins through food chopper. Add the 1½ cups stock and all other ingredients except liquor. Simmer 1½ hours. Add liquor and cook about 5 minutes longer. Pour into sterilized jars. Seal. Makes 7 quarts.

Mince Pie: Make pastry for 2 crust 9-inch pie and fill with 2½ cups mincemeat. Bake in a hot oven (425°F.) for 30 to 40 minutes.

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• two-tone fruit cocktail

Chill in refrigerator.....
- 1 14 oz. can pineapple gems
- 1 #2½ can black cherries
- 1 #2½ can apricots

Drain pineapple gems and let stand for 30 minutes in.....juice, 1 lemon

Drain all fruit well and arrange in fruit cocktail cups for serving as shown in the picture on reverse side. Line the bottom of each cup with 4 apricot halves.

Just before serving pour on..... 1 small bottle gingerale, chilled

Serves six.

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• routine preparation

2 days before

Have market order made out ahead and do all buying early, especially if Christmas comes on Monday.

Check all linen, dishes, and silver etc. for condition and number.

Day before

Make stuffing and prepare goose, ready for roasting.

Make the pickled beets, put into jars. Chill, if planning to serve cold.

Since the refrigerator is probably full and the oven will be in use tomorrow, bake the rolls of your choice and reheat for serving.

The mincemeat has probably been made weeks in advance and so bake the pie. It can be reheated for serving warm.

Put cans fruit for fruit cup in refrigerator for thorough chilling.

Make pastry for pumpkin pie and keep in refrigerator overnight.

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

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Make pastry for pumpkin pie and keep in refrigerator overnight.

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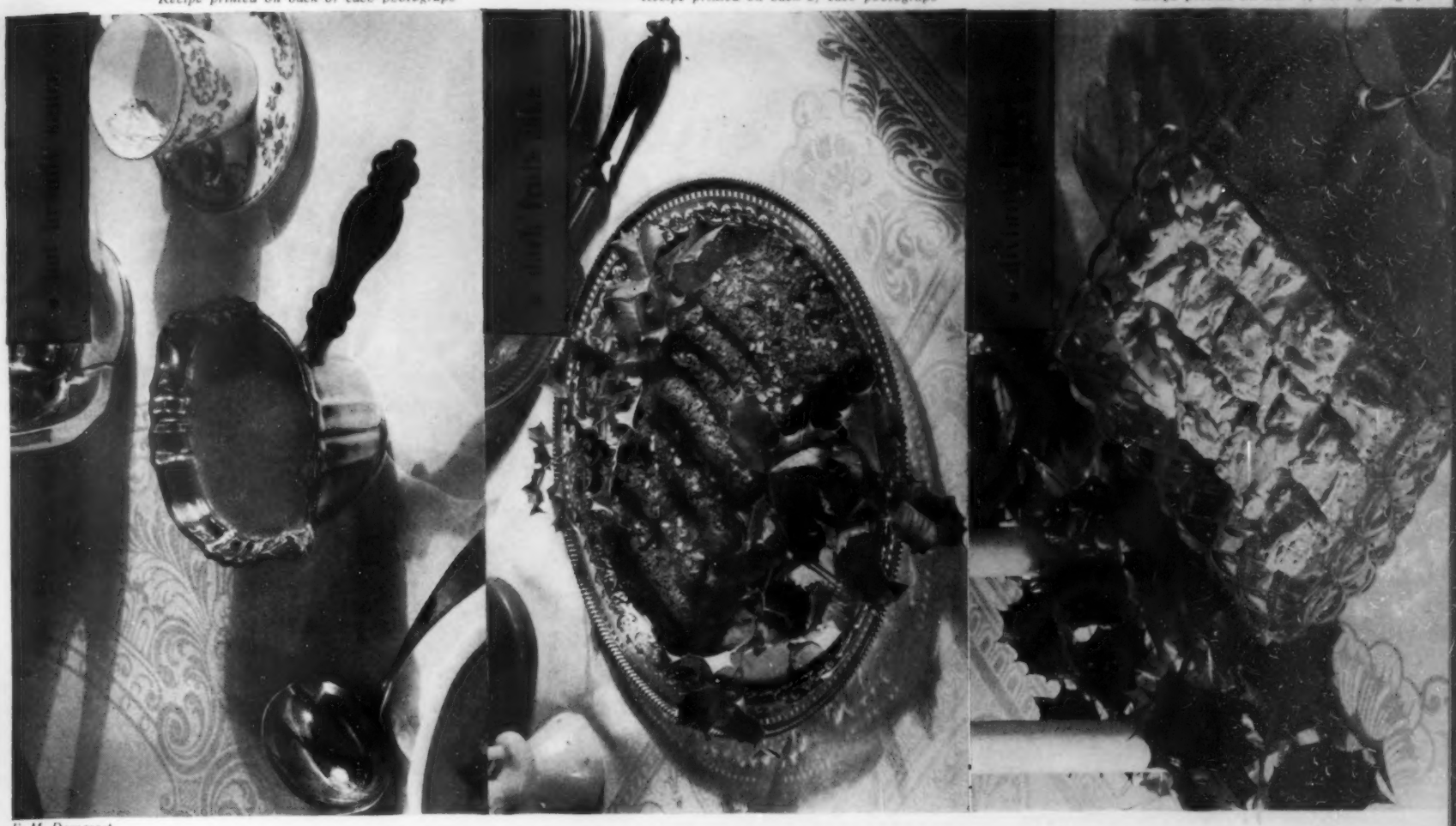
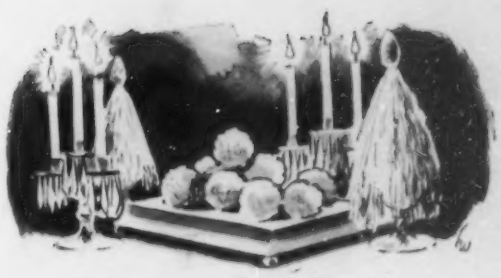
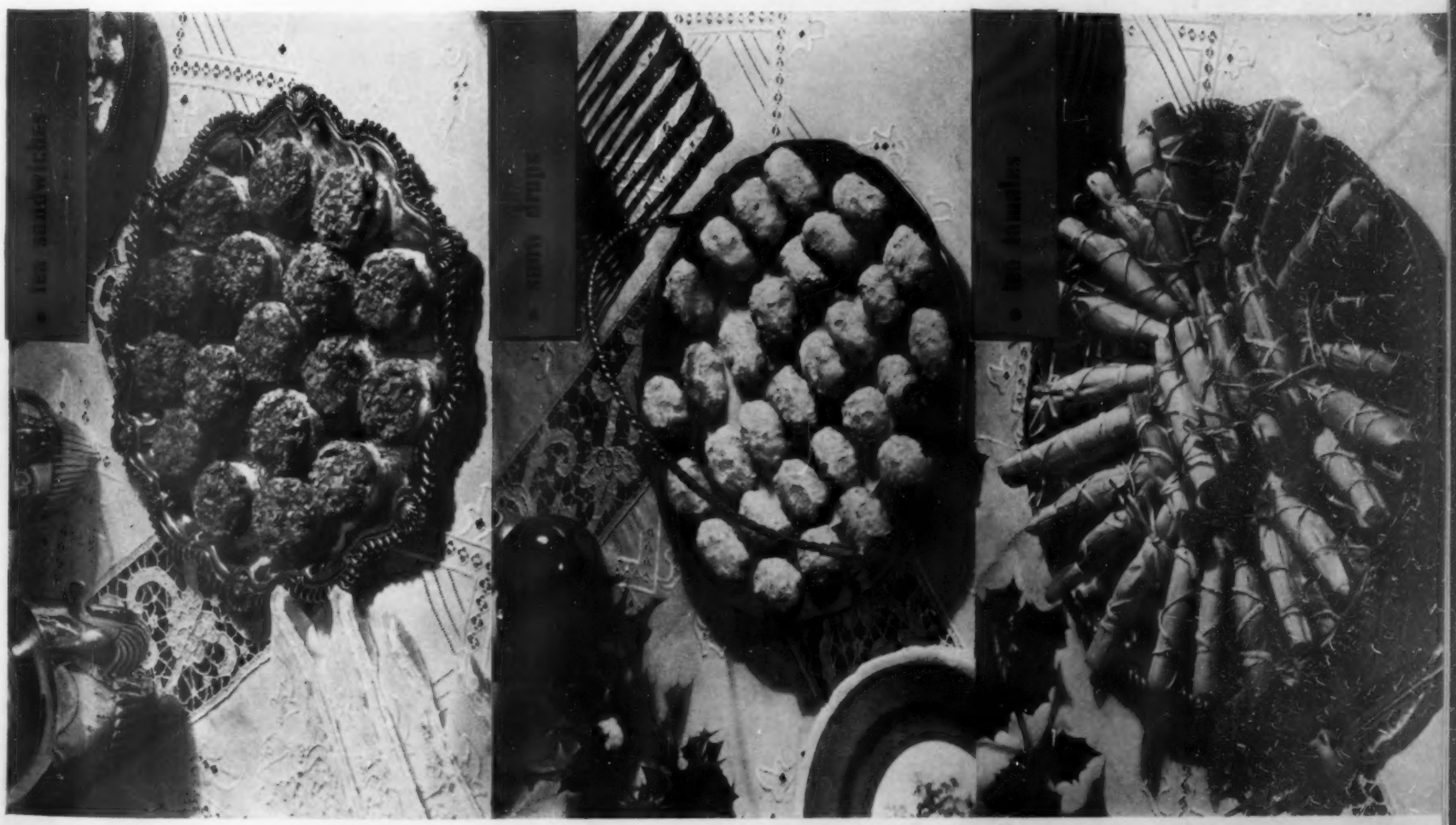


F. M. Demarest

Etiquette of Christmas cards? Follow the rules of common sense and you will remain within the boundaries of good taste in this as in all other social intercourse, but if you do want to check up just in case, read page 90

Last year's supply of "rain," a sheet of Cellophane, two silver candlesticks, and candles plus one half hour's work for two beautiful table trees . . . Popcorn balls heaped on a mirror looking ready for a snowball fight but really for dessert . . . A pot of beans, canned brown bread and pale, frosty blue in cloth and china—that's how Lucia Moore, just back from the hospital, managed Christmas guests and a Christmas Eve that was NOT dreary. . . . The story's on page 83.





• tea tamales

Stew chicken in water with carrot, onion and salt, about 2½ hours or until it falls from bones. Chop meat fine. Reduce stock to 1 quart and when boiling, gradually add cornmeal. Cook slowly 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Heat soup, add cornstarch mixed with a little cold water and cook until it thickens. Add chicken, chili powder, salt to taste and cool. Cut corn husks in 3-inch lengths, lay out several layers, spread on mush, leaving ends uncovered for tying.

4 lb. stewing chicken
1 qt. water
1 carrot
1 onion
1½ teaspoons salt
1¾ cups cornmeal
2 cans condensed tomato soup
2 teaspoons chili powder
3 tablespoons cornstarch
Ripe olives

Place some tomato mixture with piece of olive in center lengthwise on mush. Fold husks together so mush surrounds tomato mixture and center diameter is about 1 inch. Tie ends with raffia. Chill. Steam rapidly 15 minutes or until heated through. Makes 60 tamales.

Recipe submitted by ELIZABETH STEWART — *Tested in* THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• snow drops

Beat until creamy ... ⅞ cup butter or margarine
and add ... 4 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
Stir in and blend well ... 2 cups cake flour
1 cup walnuts, chopped
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon water

Chill until firm enough to shape with fingers. Form into small date-shaped pieces. Roll in sifted confectioners' sugar as soon as removed from oven.

Time: 10 to 12 minutes. Temperature 400°F. Makes 60.

Recipe submitted by ELIZABETH STEWART — *Tested in* THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

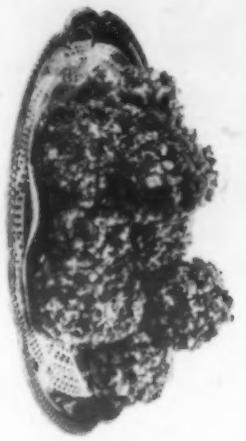
• tea sandwiches

PIMIENTO-WALNUT: Mix equal parts chopped pimiento with chopped walnut meats. Season with salt and add mayonnaise to bind. Spread on small rounds of bread sliced ¼ inch thick.

SHRIMP BUTTER: Add finely divided shrimps to well creamed butter or margarine. Season with lemon juice and salt. Spread on bread cut in star shapes and dust edge with finely chopped parsley, pressing well into the spread. A few chopped chives may be added to shrimp mixture.

NOTES: Sandwich bread is at its best when it is firm and not more than a day old. Remove butter from refrigerator a little while before ready to use. Stir it for 10 minutes with a wooden spoon until very creamy and light. To keep sandwiches until served: cover with waxed paper and wrap all in a dampened towel.

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN



Christmas Eve buffet table:

[Illustrated on page 24]

The night before Christmas, you've invited your friends in to help trim the Christmas tree. You'll want something to eat at midnight, but your guests cannot eat the golden apples and gilded walnuts! The answer—sugar cookie stars, Christmas tree sandwiches, and coffee. On your Christmas tree buffet table—a smooth linen cloth of midnight blue. At each end of the table—sparkling candlelight, enhanced by hurricane chimneys with white wire Christmas tree frames, gold ball tipped. In the center of the table at the back, casting shadows on the wall, a snowy wooden sleigh, gold decorated and filled with gilded fruit, banked on a bed of snowy pine branches—the same snowy pine branches which fill the wire receptacle bases of the Christmas hurricane candles. The sleigh was designed by Elsa Conners. The gilded walnuts have had Christmas fortunes, written in gold ink on tiny white scrolls, substituted for the original nut meats—and are the surprise feature of your Christmas tree buffet supper!

• divinity fudge

Combine sugar, corn syrup, water, and salt in saucepan. Bring to boil and continue cooking without stirring until a hard ball forms when a little is dropped in cold water (265°F.). Beat egg whites stiff and gradually beat in the hot syrup. Continue beating until it stiffens. Add vanilla and nut meats and turn into a greased pan (8x10 inches). When cold cut in squares. Makes 40 to 50 pieces.

3 cups granulated sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
½ cup water
¼ teaspoon salt
3 egg whites
¾ cup chopped mixed nuts, or pistachio nuts
1 teaspoon vanilla

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• dark fruit cake

Break up nut meats and cut fruits in small pieces, except cherries, which are left whole. Mix half the flour with fruits. Sift other half flour several times with spices and soda. Cream butter and sugar; add beaten yolks, molasses and brandy. Fold in beaten whites, then floured fruits, and lastly the sifted flour. Turn into pans, lined with several thicknesses brown paper (top one well greased). Bake 2 hours in slow oven 300°F.) Cool on rack. To store, wrap in waxed paper and newspapers. Unwrap, sprinkle with brandy twice during storage. Makes 8 lbs.

1 lb. pecan meats
1 lb. raisins
1 lb. candied pineapple
½ lb. citron
½ lb. candied orange peel
½ lb. candied lemon peel
1 lb. dates
1 lb. candied cherries
1 lb. flour
1 teaspoon each nutmeg, cloves and mace
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 teaspoons soda
1 lb. butter or margarine
1 lb. sugar
10 eggs, separated
1 cup molasses
½ cup brandy, sherry, or grape juice

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

• hot brandy sauce

In upper part of double boiler place ... ½ lb. (1 cup) butter
1 lb. dark brown sugar
2 lemons, juice and grated rinds
½ cup brandy
2 whole eggs

Beat with rotary beater over boiling water about 5 minutes or until it thickens. Serve hot with fruit cake. Makes 3½ cups.

Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Photograph printed on back of each recipe

Cookie tree and table cloth have red ribbon trimmed pantie ruffles. Ellen Sheridan tells you how to make them. Just turn to page 70

Fred R. Dapprich

"If I had to choose between a dozen candles and a dozen roses, I would take the candles every time!"—FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES

F. M. Demarest

"AS MANY a sad debutante has discovered too late, it's possible to spend $5,000 on a party and still have the season's outstanding dud . . . try locking up your bank account and opening up your idea-fund." So writes Julietta K. Arthur in her article on Beulah Kuh, who "gives" more than a thousand parties a year and did the gay Harvest table for us above. For parties that click and a description of this table, turn to page 65.

Harrie Wood

Wreath of balsam with silver ribbon and silver walnuts for a Regency room

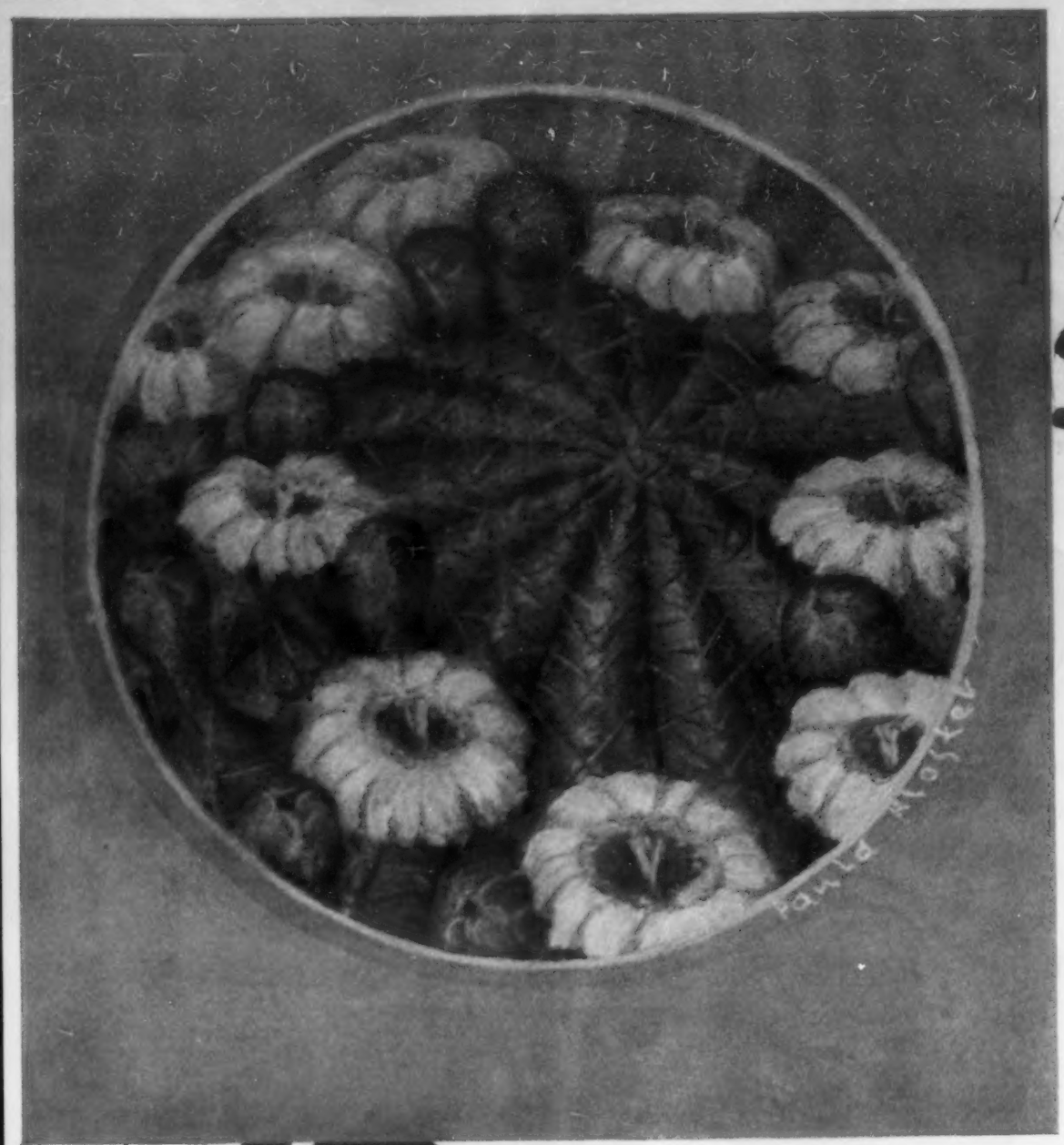
Christmas

F. M. Demarest

—And our state flower prints

Here's another timely idea—the flower prints opposite would make charming Christmas cards

You don't have to be an artist to make The American Home flower prints into gifts nice enough to go under the most glittering tree. We know because we tried it! The whole editorial staff got to work with paste pots and scissors and turned out the array of gifts you see above. These suggestions should get you off to a fine start on making all kinds of original things. And don't for a minute make the mistake of thinking that our gifts reflect extravagant ideas. They cost next to nothing, for everything from a Quaker Oats box to paper doilies was used for the handsome effects you see here. Even the portfolio and the seed file are in the limited budget class, but they show that you started thinking about your friends long before Christmas Eve. You might start right now by reading the directions given on page 69.



XXIV. ARIZONA: SAGUARO or GIANT CACTUS: Its tall, fluted arms bear creamy, night-blooming flowers, then luscious, red-fleshed fruits

The American Home Series of State Flower Prints

XXIII. NEW MEXICO: YUCCA: Called "lamp of Our Lord" and "Our Lord's candlestick," it lights the deserts and brightens many gardens

Wrappings and trimmings courtesy Dennison's. Photographs by F. M. Demarest

Gifts to make and gifts to buy!

Just the ordinary seals and stickers from any stationer's can make wonderful Christmas decorations for presents

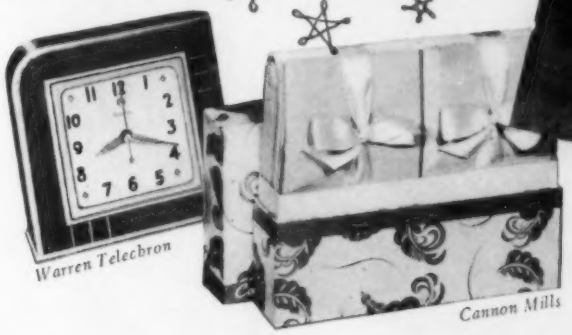
CHILDREN's eagerness to "help with Christmas" is almost unlimited and even though at times it would be quicker to do certain tasks oneself, let them help. Any child will hurry home from school if he knows that he can cut up the fruit for fruit cake to be sent Grandmother and for the plum pudding to be served on Christmas day. Even self-important high school girls and boys will fairly revel in making taffy and popcorn balls. They will thoroughly enjoy making scores of crisp fat gingerbread men to be taken to the Crippled Children's Hospital on Christmas Eve, and they will pinch their allowances unmercifully so as to do their share in packing the basket for the family across the tracks. These are the things that have a meaning at Yuletide, that are invaluable to the recipients, but even more to the young folk who offer them . . . for they help to inculcate the real significance of Christmas. Even small youngsters understand that *giving* has been an integral part of Christmas ever since the Three Wise Men took their gifts to Bethlehem. And so they can not learn too early that giving must be of oneself and for others if it is to ring true.—LOUISE PRICE BELL

Little Sue Farley's most important and most cherished present from her parents each year is designed and made by them. These two Louise Braitley Farley describes on page 55

These are the kinds of things one hopes to receive!

—and there's no safer way of gauging a gift. If you give it away reluctantly, wishing secretly you were receiving it—it's a fine gift!

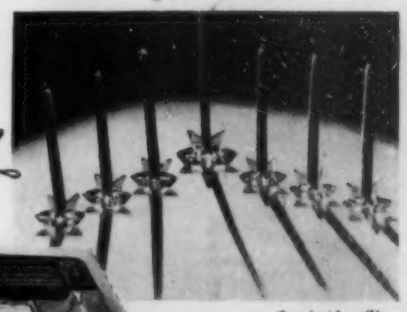
Martex



Warren Telechron *Cannon Mills*

Give her a doll this Christmas, but make it a special one like Florence (above). Her life story's on page 85

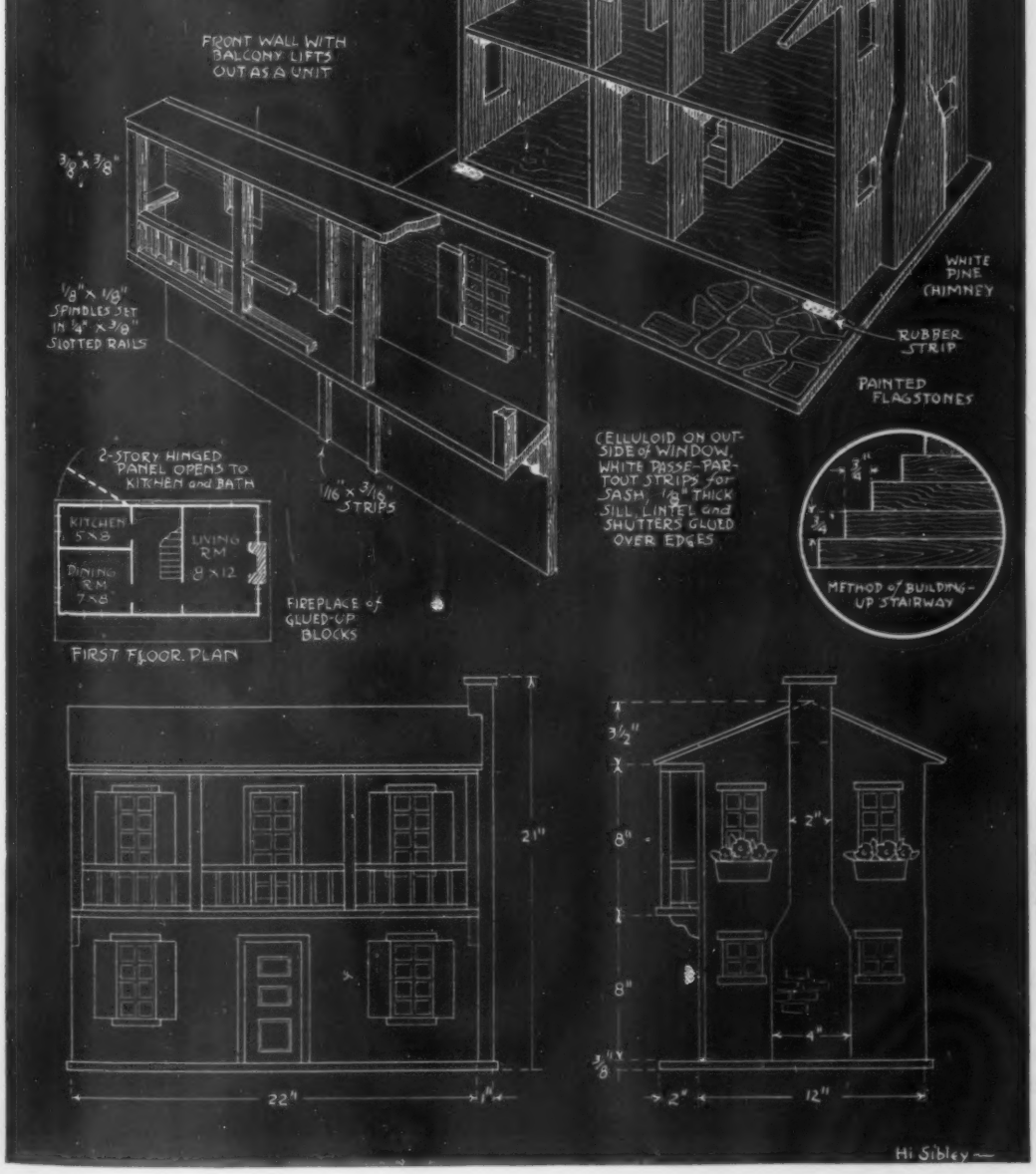
Gifts that really add up are the gifts we all like to get. Sheets and towels and clocks prosaic? Not *this* kind, Sir!



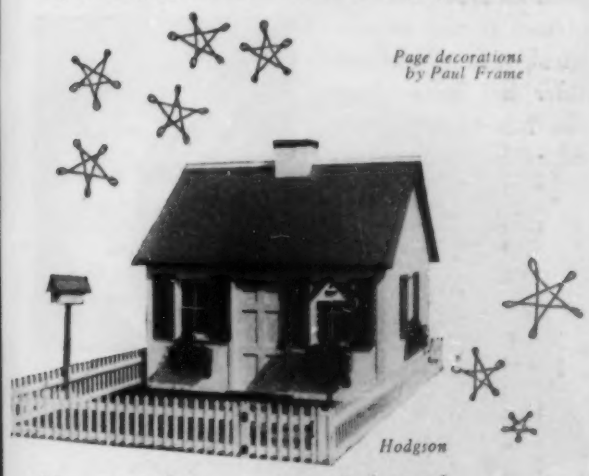
Cambridge Glass

Pepperell *Chicago Flexible Shaft; Farber*

These are things everyone likes; sparkling new Christmas candle holders, towels and sheets to match for the "master suite," a de luxe coffee maker to replace the antique long ago entitled to an old age pension



Page decorations by Paul Frame



Hodgson

How straight can you saw? A good aim is about all that's needed to make your little girl that doll house she's always wanted, but which is so extravagantly high-priced in the shops. Hi Sibley tells you how—page 61. Above is a real playhouse

If in doubt about the right gift, send cigarettes. They're always welcome!

A really unique gift is a handmade Indian rug, perfect for modern room or log cabin. If she sets her table with old Sandwich glass, we suggest a reproduction for the centerpiece. Also for her table, an urn-shaped vase becoming to most flowers and a sterling "pineapple" for jams and jellies

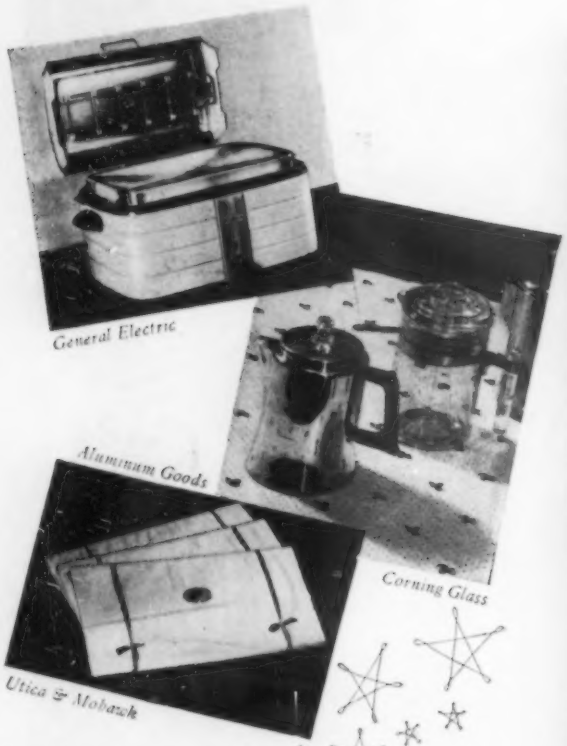
Tribal Indian Post

Duncan & Miller Glass

Fostoria

Gorham

Either doll house is very easy to build, the cost of materials negligible. Start now so you'll have time to plant some green sponge rubber trees, put in a bird bath and pergola and, of course, a barbecue! Turn to page 61 and, saw in hand-



General Electric

Aluminum Goods

Corning Glass

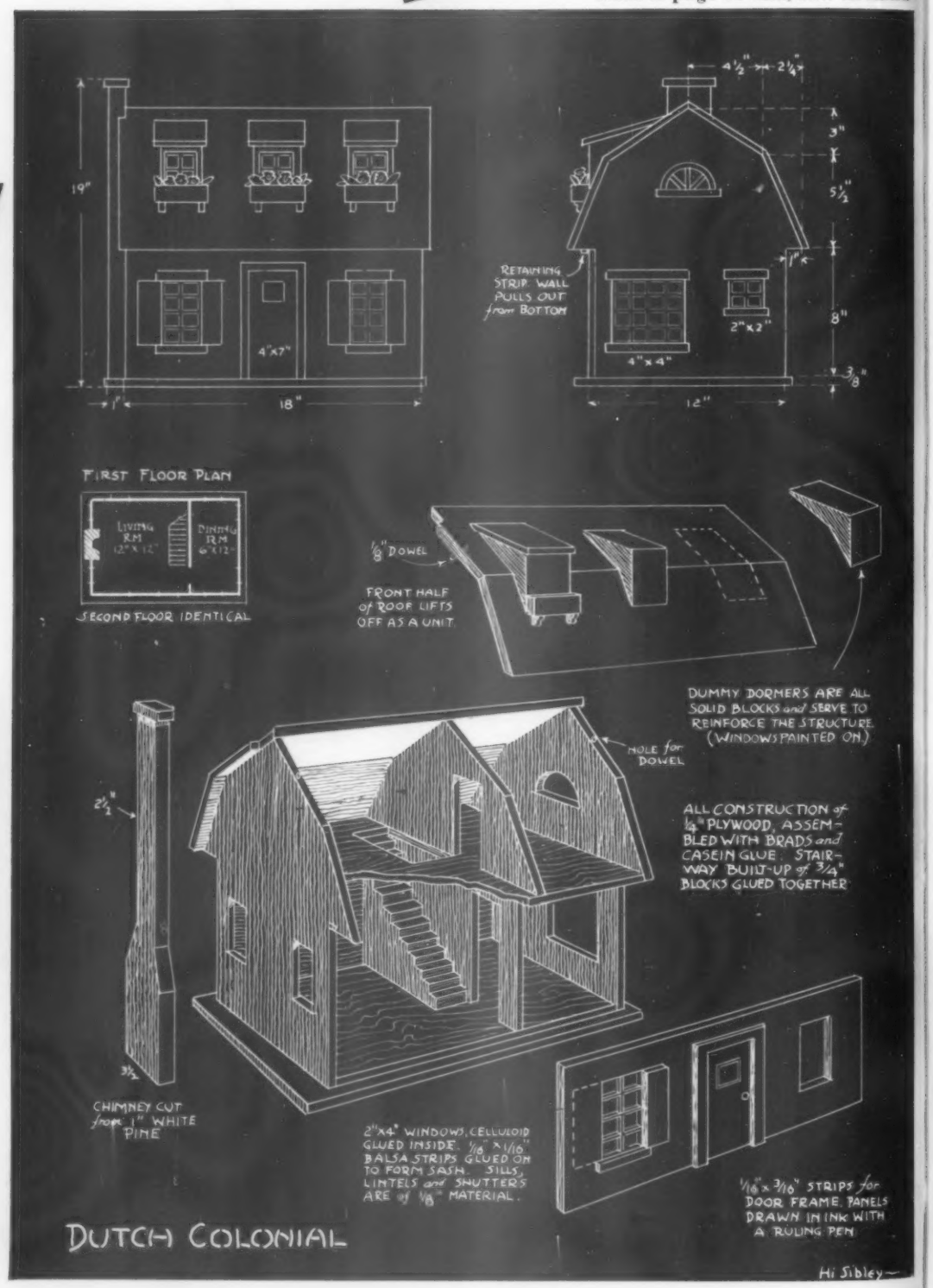
Utica & Mohawk

If it has to do with good food, it's bound to please! It may be electrical, or not. Next, consider her linen closet; she has always wanted stacks and stacks!

Graf Studios

George Koch Sons

Little brackets for plants are a nice thought for those who always have growing things around. All of these are smart ones, too!


19"
4"x7"
18"
1"
4½"
2¼"
3"
5½"
1"
8"
2"x2"
4"x4"
⅜"
12"
RETAINING STRIP. WALL PULLS OUT from BOTTOM
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
LIVING RM 12"X12"
DINING RM 6"X12"
SECOND FLOOR IDENTICAL
⅛" DOWEL
FRONT HALF of ROOF LIFTS OFF AS A UNIT
DUMMY DORMERS ARE ALL SOLID BLOCKS and SERVE TO REINFORCE THE STRUCTURE. (WINDOWS PAINTED ON.)
HOLE for DOWEL
2½"
3½"
CHIMNEY CUT from 1" WHITE PINE
ALL CONSTRUCTION of ¼" PLYWOOD, ASSEMBLED WITH BRADS and CASEIN GLUE. STAIRWAY BUILT-UP of ¾" BLOCKS GLUED TOGETHER
2"x4" WINDOWS, CELLULOID GLUED INSIDE. 1/16" x 1/16" BALSA STRIPS GLUED ON TO FORM SASH. SILLS, LINTELS and SHUTTERS ARE of ⅛" MATERIAL.
1/16" x 3/16" STRIPS for DOOR FRAME. PANELS DRAWN IN INK WITH A RULING PEN
DUTCH COLONIAL
Hi Sibley

Everybody loves a GADGET!

And there is a different gadget to delight every single person on your gift list. Here's just everything from fireproof gloves to fireside stools

Industrial Gloves

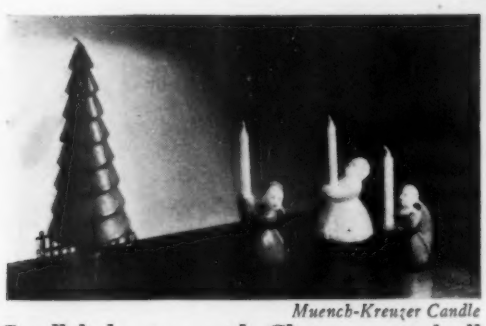
Vanderley

Carlisle Metal Silhouette Studio

A beautifully done weather vane is a really different gift and something that will be a fine permanent addition to their home

Seymour Smith & Son and Alliance

Winter evenings—the time when the garden lover fondles his tools in anticipation of the spring onslaught. Give him new ones

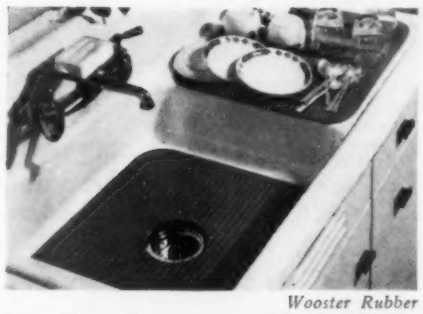


Muench-Kreuzer Candle

Candlelight goes with Christmas, and all the more so when the candles themselves are such realistic symbols of Christmas

George F. Collins

A glass mail box is A1 preparedness for those Xmas greetings



Wooster Rubber

Beautiful silence, not clatter, when dishes are washed, if you wrap these gay rubber mats with a large red bow

Fabricated Products

Cellophane protective covers come in all sizes to fit bowls and electric mixers

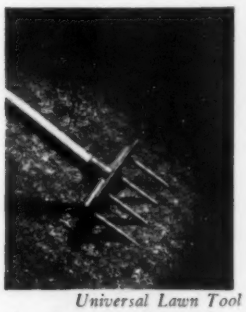
Joseph H. Dodson

Fibre Drum Corp.

A feast all winter for the birds we are sure you'll want to provide for; and for the sunporch now, the garden later, a gay and inexpensive beverage table which is easy to carry

Autoyre

A big "little" gift; a clip-on rack for those folk who can't "build in" conveniences



Universal Lawn Tool

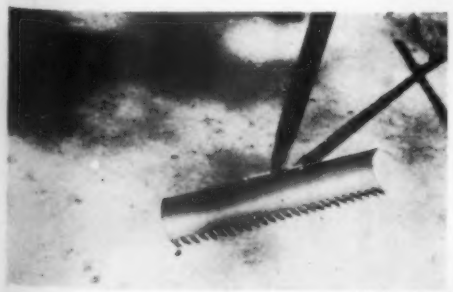
A fine sod spiker for the man who tends one (lawn)

Edmont

Give away the secret of well-kept hands for gardener or home worker —these gloves in a Xmas package

Scott Paper

There are so many "little things" that make thoughtful gifts; witness a picnic tray that attaches to your car, a lap table, and a holder for the always indispensable paper towels



Union Tool

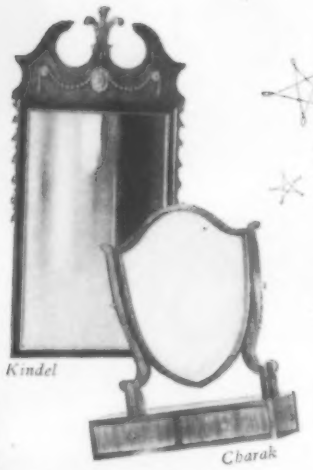
A labor-saver for the hard-working gardener. It is death to crabgrass and dandelions, stops pesky weeds from re-seeding

Chase Brass & Copper

Really four-in-one, and a handy gadget to own. Combines corkscrew, bottle opener, ice hammer and jigger. Could you ask for more?

Spool Cotton

Accessories from R. H. Macy



Kindel

Charak

No one ever had too many mirrors! Two handsome ones for downstairs and upstairs, respectively

**TABLES AND CHAIRS,
TABLES AND CHAIRS,
SHE SHALL HAVE PLENTY
HOWEVER SHE FARES!**

That's our Christmas resolution —we hope it's yours!

You don't need even the proverbial clever fingers to make these! All you *do* need is a few pennies worth of crepe paper, cardboard from your husband's shirts, a dime for a "twister," an eye for color, and a little time. Turn to page 85 for the details

Whitney

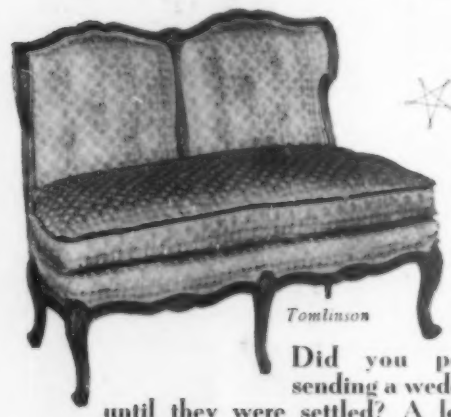
Is her house done in maple? Here's a sturdy beauty

Virginia Lincoln

A very little girl would adore this Boston rocker

Kroehler

A wing chair as dignified as this is at home anywhere



Tomlinson

Did you postpone sending a wedding gift until they were settled? A love seat is handsome, practical. Two of these turn into beds when occasion demands

Robert W. Irwin

A pull-up chair is always handy, rarely so handsome

Heywood Wakefield

For solid comfort without bulk—this fine wing chair

Pullman

She's crazy about Swedish Modern? Here's her chair!

Tomlinson

Burton Dixie

Burton Dixie

Imperial

If her room is quaint, she'll like this spool sewing table

Drexel

Hall, dining or living room would welcome this piece

Baker

Happy solution for lamp, books, etc.—all in one place!

It's impossible to hurt a homemaker's feelings by giving her something practical for the home. So, we've managed to combine usefulness and beauty and there isn't a thing here ANY homemaker wouldn't love getting

Rittenhouse Edwards

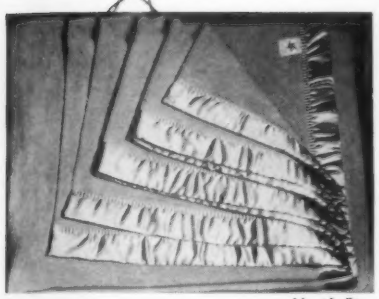
Even if they seem to "have everything," a musical door chime is liable to be missing. It's subtle flattery to give her fine sheets, and here's the most stylish "twin" we've set eyes upon, a waffle iron that doubles in chrome and walnut

Spool Cotton

Crochet in "modern dress" for a lady you really want to please

Pequot

Westinghouse



North Star

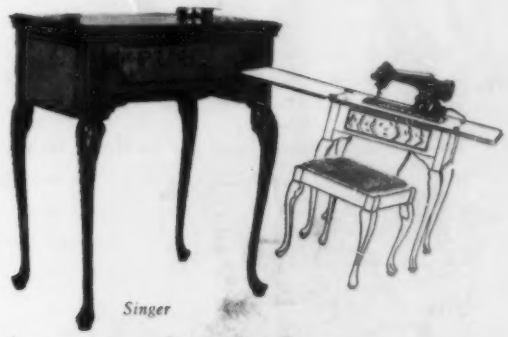
If they don't like to get up in the morning anyway, this blanket won't make them eager risers—you know, the warm but not heavy kind

Mirro and Wear Ever

The big and the small of it—both gleaming gifts to initiate Christmas morning

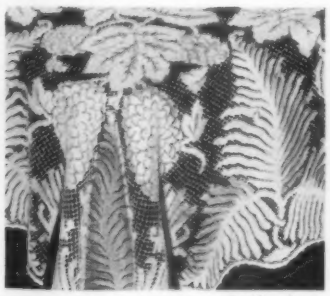
Scranton Lace

Why not give a formal lace dinner cloth—the luxury kind she might not buy for herself? It comes in this handsome gift box



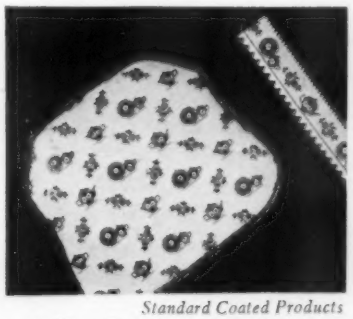
Singer

A sewing machine that fits into the living room scene



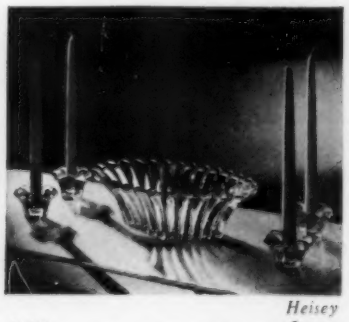
Quaker Lace

And here's another lace dinner cloth to help make the holiday parties more festive. It's handsome and dignified



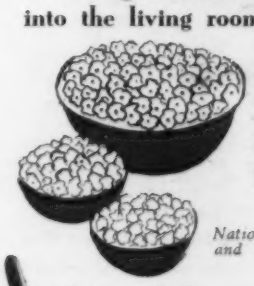
Standard Coated Products

Jolly, bright oilcloth ensembles will be welcomed into any woman's kitchen. Try them this Christmas



Heisey

We can suggest nothing more exciting for a young hostess than this Crystolite bowl and four candlesticks



How about a set of colored bowls for Xmas popcorn

National Enameling and Stamping Co.

Colonial

She has a table? Not this delicately beautiful sewing table, we'll wager!

Stromberg-Carlson

This is NOT a table, it's a radio that's a good looking piece of living room furniture

R.C.A. Victor

And here you see what to our mind is a grand solution for a radio in a child's room

She can do housework the hard way, but why in the world should she when all of these are available? Each one an elegant gift

Hoover
Bissell
Clements
Johnson Wax

Sheer Luxury!

We're ardent members of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving. But at the same time it kindles our heartstrings to send as a gift something that the recipient would not indulge in of his own accord, something that represents an added luxury, an added pleasure, or convenience. And so we have gathered together those extras which are not strictly necessities, but because of just that will be all the more welcome at Christmas time

Winter & Co. *Wurlitzer* *George Steck*

Music in the home, a fitting token of the real Christmas spirit

Wise & Co. Doubleday Doran

The Garden Encyclopedia, a fascinating new book on decoration, not needed, but what really lovely gifts

There'll be tremendous joy in these tiny pianos in many homes this Christmas. We hope you'll sing your carols around one too

Kenwood

General Electric

You CAN take it with you, if it's a portable radio. And is this a super-duper case! The recipient will think so, we're sure of that

Copeland & Thompson

Fortunate are you if someone on your list is a collector of pitchers! Here's a charmer that she'll love

Wamsutta

A gay gift box of fine, fine linen, as the ads would say, to give her that cherished feeling so dear to a woman

The true warmth of your regard goes with your gift of these truly luxurious warm blankets

Landers, Frary & Clark

All of us like to be pampered. So why not this soft woolly electric hot pad to make one cozy these frosty winter nights?

Watson

No one really NEEDS sandwich tongs—but how it would set up a little hostess if Santa should remember to bring her a fine pair

Kitchen-Aid

Pampering again—one can get along without an electric coffee mill of course—but gosh!

General Electric

G & C Merriam

And how about luxuries for Dad, too? He *can* use a 98¢ dictionary, wind his own desk clock and struggle over a crude rock stone for his grill—but look these over carefully, Ladies. They are DAD'S idea of sheer luxury—and complete joy!

Master Metal Products

Toastmaster

The waffles will be as good on any old waffle iron. But there IS this "whole set" for waffle making with pomp and ceremony—and is it swank!

Westinghouse

Not on Christmas Day maybe, but come summer and we know of no ONE thing but an electric roaster that will simply MAKE her summer

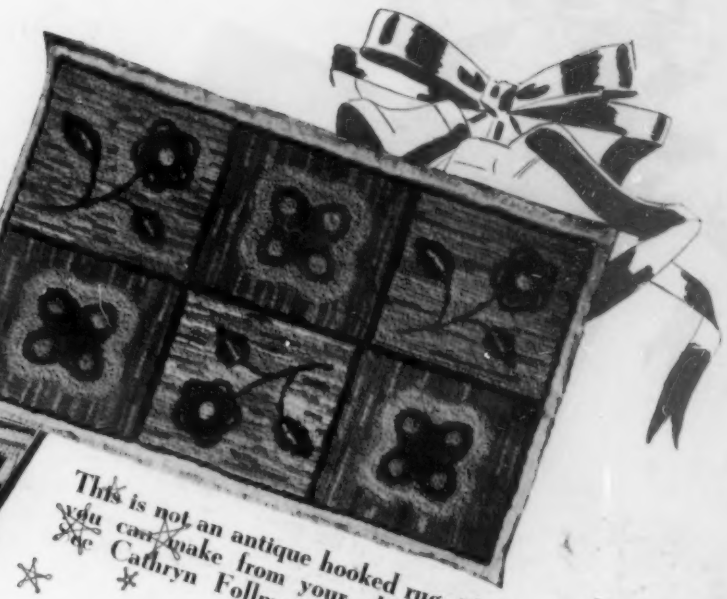
Crocker-Wheeler Electric

Toast at breakfast, toast at tea, toast to taste, AND always in the grand manner with this beautiful and streamlined job!

Want to Spend a Dollar?

We, ourselves, were surprised to find out how many really desirable things there are for one silver dollar, or less! We're really proud of the collection on this page and hope it will help stretch the Christmas budget so that each and every friend can be included on your gift list this merry Christmas

Little things such as these can be both useful and ornamental!



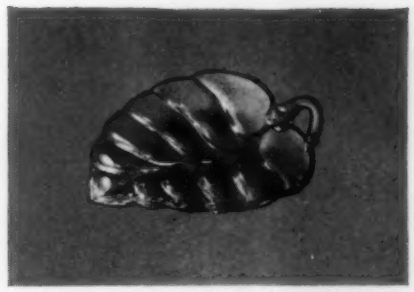
This is not an antique hooked rug; it's one you can make from your old silk socks! See Cathryn Follman's article, page 71

Milton Bradley

For your "horsy" friend we suggest one of the newest games. It will give all the thrills of the real turf!

Chase Brass & Copper

When the electricity fails, they'll be grateful for this hurricane candle stand



Duncan & Miller

No one ever has enough of these little "extra" dishes, for candy, jam, salted nuts, olives—all the things served at holiday parties

Clover Leaf Crystal

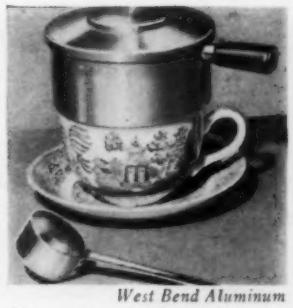
Consider driveway markers, please, both guest and host! For bridge friends, paper doilies in Christmas colors. Monogrammed crystal ash trays are also grand

Columbus Coated Fabrics

If she loves a pretty kitchen, she'll appreciate these oilcloth helps. Practical, but also very gay with their various colorful patterns

Cataract Sharpe

Don't make them wait for their crystal anniversary! Give them this bit of elegance here and now!



West Bend Aluminum

If you've a friend in a hotel room or non-housekeeping suite, he'll enjoy a one-cup coffee maker

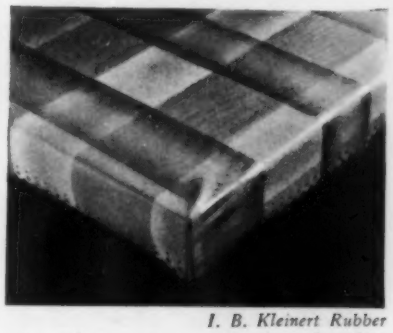
The child just learning to write will adore "private" stationery, packed in little animal bookends—a deer maybe

Meyercord

Lots of people love to do their own decorating. Give them decalcomanias to put on furniture, pottery. Very gay on canisters

Daniel Low & Co.

Everyone likes miniatures. Here's a new one for either a child or collector



I. B. Kleinert Rubber

Another nice gift for bridge friends. The next time the Bridge Club meets at her home, she'll use this smart bridge table cover

Take your choice of metals; chromium backed clothes brush for him, aluminum hot plate pads for her, and make a hit

Snuggle Rug

Blustery winter weather will hold no terrors for baby if he has a Snuggle Rug to keep him cozy and warm. A gift to the house—Old Glory. Every American takes genuine pride in owning his native flag

Harding Uniform & Regalia

And now on these nine pages of gift suggestions you simply *must* have got ideas for all "your sisters and your cousins and your aunts." We have searched and shopped for many months and in many parts of the country and have culled out the things we thought you'd like best. We're sorry we cannot buy them for you, but we know you'll find them in the various leading stores in your particular city

It's the thoughtful gifts we make ourselves that often please most. For directions for making the marmalade jar, right, turn to page 51

R. M. Kellogg

Paper-white narcissi, flowers in bloom all winter—that's an almost perfect Xmas gift!

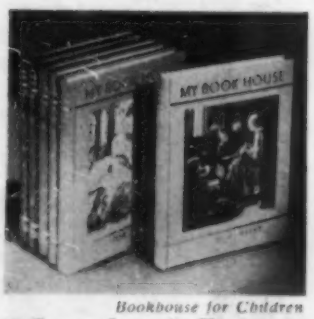
Eaton Paper

Let the children write their Christmas thank-you notes on their very own "Ducky Doodle" stationery, 10 white sheets, 10 blue, with envelopes

Sterling Craft

First silver is important. Start the baby off right with "a silver spoon in his mouth"—and a fork

If they live in an American home, they'll want "The American Home Book of House Plans," "The Book of Smart Interiors," as well as the American Home Menu Maker, with its brand new recipes



Bookhouse for Children

When that "tell me a story" time comes, a sextet of story books helps a lot; valuable for any age

The Nuart Press

Every day in the year one can appreciate the gift of stationery with printed name and address, ideal for semi-business notes

Milwaukee Lace Paper

Silver and gold tinsel on the Christmas tree, and silver and gold lace paper doilies underneath

Julius Goodman

If it's a combination anniversary and Christmas gift, nothing could be lovelier than a sterling silver coffee service, and, of course, so very perfect for holiday entertaining

Onondaga Pottery

For those occasions when refreshments require just a small plate, but a dainty one, American history occasional plates with lovely colored borders, are the thing

The Nurrie Companies

H. T. Cushman

Really permanent gifts carry Christmas greetings over the years. Mirrors and extra tables are two of the best

Christmas for first generation Americans

ROSALYE A. GALANTI

WHAT a heterogeneous collection of observances our Christmas celebrations have become! Jean Austin's Christmas editorial of last year made us realize that in the hodgepodge of Christmas customs that we had adopted, there was no one predominating idea that our children would always associate with Christmas. We, as first-generation Americans, had adopted in one fell swoop all the English and American "Christmasisms"—from the burning of the Yulelog to the blazing plum pudding and even the more ubiquitous habit of exchanging gifts with friends and

Recipe printed on back of photograph *Demarest*

• cuccidati

1. Kathryn Potts, with the strength of a horse, Lifts pianos and trunks as a matter of course.

2. But *one* household duty that soon makes her sag, Is washing the windows with bucket and rag!

3. While young Janet Hurd, you can readily see, Has scarcely the strength of a feminine flea . . .

4. But *she* uses Windex her windows to shine And ends up the day feeling *perfectly* fine!

5. For with Windex there's nothing to do but to spray And then wipe with a cloth. It's the *easiest* way . . .

6. To make windows sparkle like never before. Get *Windex* today at your neighborhood store!

NO OTHER GLASS CLEANER IS MADE BY THE SECRET WINDEX FORMULA! YET AN AVERAGE YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WINDEX COSTS NO MORE THAN A PAIR OF SILK STOCKINGS!

THE EASY WAY TO MAKE GLASS SPARKLE!

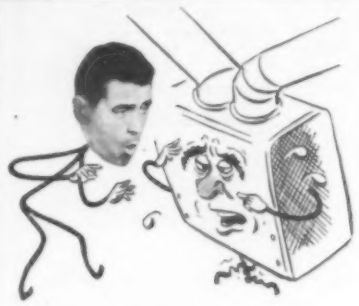
WINDEX

FOR WINDOWS, MIRRORS, PICTURE GLASS, ETC.

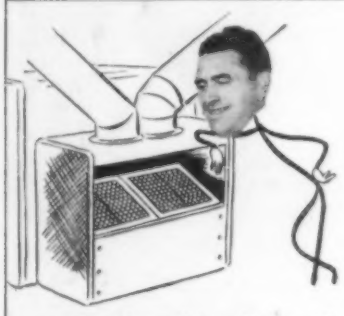
Copyright 1939, The Drackett Co.

HAVE YOU A "NOSE" IN YOUR CELLAR?

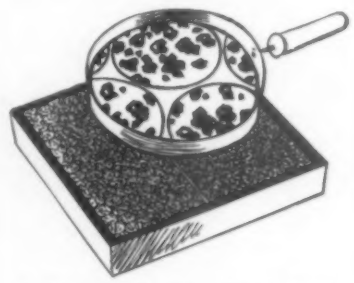
1. You've every reason to feel like a king, if you have a forced warm-air furnace. It gives you clean, economical heat.



2. But it can do this only when its "nose" is in proper working order. (*Note:* Look for this "nose" in the blower of your furnace.)



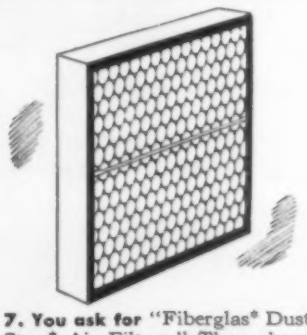
3. This "nose" is called an "air filter." It does exactly what its name implies. It supplies your furnace with clean, *filtered, healthful* air.



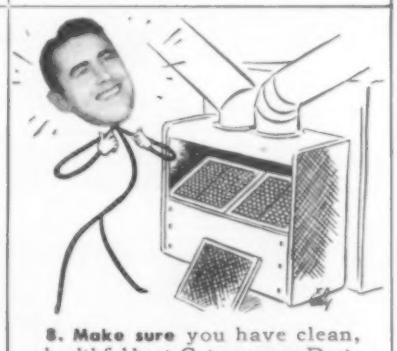
4. Of course, in removing loads of dust and dirt from the air, this air filter eventually stuffs up; becomes dirty. *Very* dirty!

5. What's apt to happen then? Less warm air circulating in the house. Fuel being wasted. The house getting chilly. *You* getting uncomfortable.

6. How can you fix it? Easy! All you do is replace the *dirty* filters with *clean* Dust-Stops. You get these Dust-Stops at your furnace dealer's.



7. You ask for "Fiberglas* Dust-Stop* Air Filters." They absorb virtually all "nuisance" dirt from circulated air. Made with pure glass fibers, they are safe, efficient; cut down house cleaning.



8. Make sure you have clean, healthful heat. Get your new Dust-Stops now. Easy to install. Save fuel. A size to fit your furnace. Most sizes only $1.50 each.

If you're not already enjoying the comfort of clean, *filtered* air from your warm-air furnace, get in touch with your furnace man and find how inexpensively an air-filtering attachment can be installed. Write for Booklet A—It's free!

FIBERGLAS* DUSTOP* AIR FILTERS

*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF. COPR. 1939—OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS CORP.

Manufactured by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, Toledo, Ohio

acquaintances. There had been no gradual transition from the simple, sincere Christmas practices our parents brought here from the old world to the elaborate observances common to this, their adopted country. It was the reading of THE AMERICAN HOME's Christmas editorial, then, that revealed to us the wealth and beauteous traditions we were ignoring in so completely modernizing our children's Christmas celebrations.

With this thought in mind, we harked back to our childhood Christmases. The first vision that came to mind was not the mad rush of activity *outside* the home that precedes Christmas Week in our scheme of life today, but rather the extra excitement and preparation *within* the home that made us almost breathless before the great morning dawned. Besides the very special house cleaning and the finishing of the handmade family Christmas presents, there were also (and best of all) the Christmas smells—especially on the day we baked the fig-filled pastry (cut into the shapes of fantastic fish and birds and baskets of flowers) without which no Italian Christmas could be complete. On Christmas Eve layer upon layer of these pastries (called "Cuccidati") would be heaped high on special trays ready for the many friends and relatives who never failed to call to bring to us not costly gifts but rather their sincere wishes that our Christmas would be a happy, peaceful one. Surely if there were a place on our American Christmas table for a plum pudding so should each Christmas in the future see on our table a tray of Cuccidati, the ingredients of which (figs, nuts, and coarse flour) reflect the geographic and climatic conditions of the southern Italian countryside, where they originated, to as great a degree as the plum pudding indicates its English origin.

And so, we decided that this sweet old-world Christmas memory should become a Christmas memory for our children too. In

[Please turn to page 64]

Photograph printed on back of recipe

• cuccidati

crust

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ cup sugar
8 tablespoons shortening
2 eggs, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons water (about)

filling

½ lb. dried figs, put through coarse chopper
½ lb. raisins, put through coarse chopper
½ lb. citron, cut into small thin slices
¾ cup almonds, toasted and cut small
¼ cup walnuts, coarsely cut
Few pine nuts, if desired
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¾ cup honey

Mix ingredients of crust as for biscuit dough. Roll out ⅛ inch thick and cut into 4 inch squares and rectangles 2½x4 inches and 8x4 inches. Put filling in center of each, moisten edges well with water, fold together over top and seal edges. Place folded side down on greased baking sheet and pull dough into horseshoe and letter S shapes and with a knife, notch the outer part of the horseshoe shapes and the rounded part of the S shapes up to the filling, and slit the dough over the filling in a few places so it will show through. The square pieces can be shaped into birds, fish and flowers—notching the dough to represent feathers, fins or scales, petals, etc. Brush top with an additional beaten egg and bake in a hot oven (425°F.) about 18 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Recipe submitted by ROSALYE A. GALANTI
Tested in THE AMERICAN HOME KITCHEN

The Etiquette of AFTERNOON TEA

THERE are few etiquette rules to bother about, and these few so simple anyone can master them. Suppose, for instance, a hostess wishes to invite several friends for tea. She may do so quite informally—by word of mouth or by a brief note, asking them if they would care to "drop in for a cup of tea."

The generally accepted hour for tea is four or four-thirty but the hostess has great leeway here and can, as a matter of fact, set the hour at her own convenience and the convenience of her guests. Such tea parties are scarcely any trouble at all. Refreshments may be very simple. There may be cake or wafers and nothing else. Or there may be a plate of bread and butter sandwiches.

After one or two guests arrive, the service is set up on a small convenient table. Even a card table will suffice. On the tea tray should be boiling water, spirit lamp, teapot, tea strainer, cream or milk, sugar, and a dish of lemon. On the table by the tea service are the accessories—cups, saucers, spoons, napkins, and extra plates, forks, and butter knives if they are needed. The hostess frequently sets up the tea table in advance and has everything in readiness for guests' arrival.

FORMAL TEAS: For larger, more formal teas, the rules (though they are scarcely that!) are slightly different. In the first place the invitation is a visiting card with the date of the tea and the time written in the lower corner opposite the address. For example, on one line, "January 28th" and under that, "Tea at 4 o'clock." If the tea is in honor of someone, "To meet Mr. or Mrs. So-and-So" is written across the top of the visiting card.

At such teas the hostess invites one or two of her closest friends to "pour." (They may alternate.) Wearing hat and tea gown, the "pourer" sits at one end of a large table with the tea service directly in front of her, and the cups, saucers, spoons, and napkins to one side. The hostess in a long semi-formal gown stands near the door where it is convenient for her to greet guests and introduce them to others. If she feels that the number of her guests may prove unwieldy, she may ask one or two of her other friends to "stand" with her. They, like the "pourer" wear hats and tea gowns.

At a large tea the hostess is called upon for much more in the way of food than at a small one. Generally speaking she should have at least one hot dish, besides sandwiches, cakes, candies and nuts. These are laid out on the table with plates and forks. If convenient, it is nice to have chairs along the wall close to tables so that guests who wish to can sit there. Or, they may take their tea and side plate to another part of the room.

Among the foods considered favorably for large teas are: hot buttered crumpets, cinnamon toast, thin sandwiches, slices of layer cake, assorted cookies, mints, and a variety of salted nuts. The hostess field, however, in food for teas is wide indeed and in this issue we've given you many really *new* ideas.

The large tea table should be your special care. Be very particular to see that there is a lovely centerpiece of flowers and candles or some of the beautiful and new ideas we've given you throughout your Christmas issue.

Marmalade jar

[*Illustrated on page 46*]

I KNOW two or three people who were ill on Christmas last year. Because I was sure they would each get a lot of flowers, I purchased little flower pots, sealed up the holes in the bottom with paraffine, filled them with marmalade which I then covered with paraffine and just before the paraffine set I arranged a winter bouquet in each. Then I wrapped the pots in Cellophane up to the bouquet and tied a bright ribbon around it—good looking and cost very little. If money was no object the same thing could be done with more expensive containers—even antiques. Last summer I put up some watermelon pickle in hob-nail glasses, which I plan to keep stowed away for similar emergencies this Christmas.—HAZEL SWAYZE

"There is no finer gift than one's favorite music performed by the greatest artists"

DO YOU want to give Christmas gifts that will grow ever dearer to the recipients? Then give them Victor Records—one or more recordings of some favorite music by the world's greatest artists. Ever after, that music will be theirs to warm and delight them whenever they wish. Victor Records are best played on a new RCA Victrola, the most "pleasure-full" gift for your home. Sketched above is the RCA Victrola Model U-40, with the famous Gentle Action Automatic Record Changer. This great RCA Victrola has the new Improved Viscaloid Damped Pick-up that assures purer record reproduction, and plenty of volume to produce natural balanced tone at a whisper or at full symphonic level. It is designed for use with Television Attachment. The radio has Push-Button Tuning, and brings in American and Foreign stations.

Universally Beloved Victor Christmas Records

CHRISTMAS CAROLS OF MANY LANDS—Angels We Have Heard on High—Ayapo and others. Vienna Choir Boys. Album C-32, 8 sides, Price $6.50

STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT (*Gruber*)—Weihnachten (Christmas) (*Humperdinck*) Ernestine Schumann-Heink. Record No. 6723 $2.00

CHRISTMAS CAROLS—POTPOURRI—God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen—Silent Night, etc. Marek Weber and his Orchestra. Record No. 36188 . . . . . $1.00

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE (*Wagner*)—Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Album M-508 (AM-508 for automatic operation) 9 sides, with descriptive booklet $9.00

ALBUM OF STRAUSS WALTZES—Boston "Pops" Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler, Conductor. Album M-445 (AM-445 for automatic operation) 10 sides $7.00

SYMPHONY NO. 1, IN C MINOR (*Brahms*)—Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Album M-301 (AM-301 for automatic operation) 10 sides, with descriptive booklet $10.00

SYMPHONY NO. 6, IN F MAJOR ("Pastoral") (*Beethoven*)—Arturo Toscanini—B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra. Album M-417 (AM-417 for automatic operation) 10 sides, with descriptive booklet $10.00

Ask your RCA Victor music merchant for your copy of the specially arranged Victor Gift Selection Book.

RCA Victrola Table Model U-10
gives you record and radio entertainment

Offers you some of the most popular features of the big, de luxe RCA Victrolas, such as: Self-starting Motor, Improved Viscaloid Damped Pick-up, Improved Automatic Tuning for 5 stations and Plug-in for Television Attachment and Television Switch! Also, Electro-Dynamic Speaker, Full-Vision Horizontal Dial, 5 RCA Victor Tubes, and Automatic Tone Compensation.

The world's greatest artists are on Victor Records.

Trade-marks "RCA Victor," "Victor" and "Victrola" Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by RCA Mfg. Co., Inc.

• • •

For finer radio performance, RCA Victor Radio Tubes. You can buy RCA Victrolas on C. I. T. easy payment plan. Any radio instrument is better with an RCA Victor Master Antenna.

RCA Victrola

Combines Record and Radio Entertainment • A Service of Radio Corporation of America

US AND OUR
OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS

WE'RE positively *sentimental* about the good old days when victuals were hale and hearty—and vegetable soup was something you could sink your teeth into. That's why *Heinz* Vegetable Soup is such a sustaining dish! We make it the small-batch way — from rich beef stock and choice garden vegetables.

For supper tomorrow, try Heinz Vegetable Soup! Like all 23 Heinz Home-style Soups, it's ready to heat, serve and delight your whole family.

57

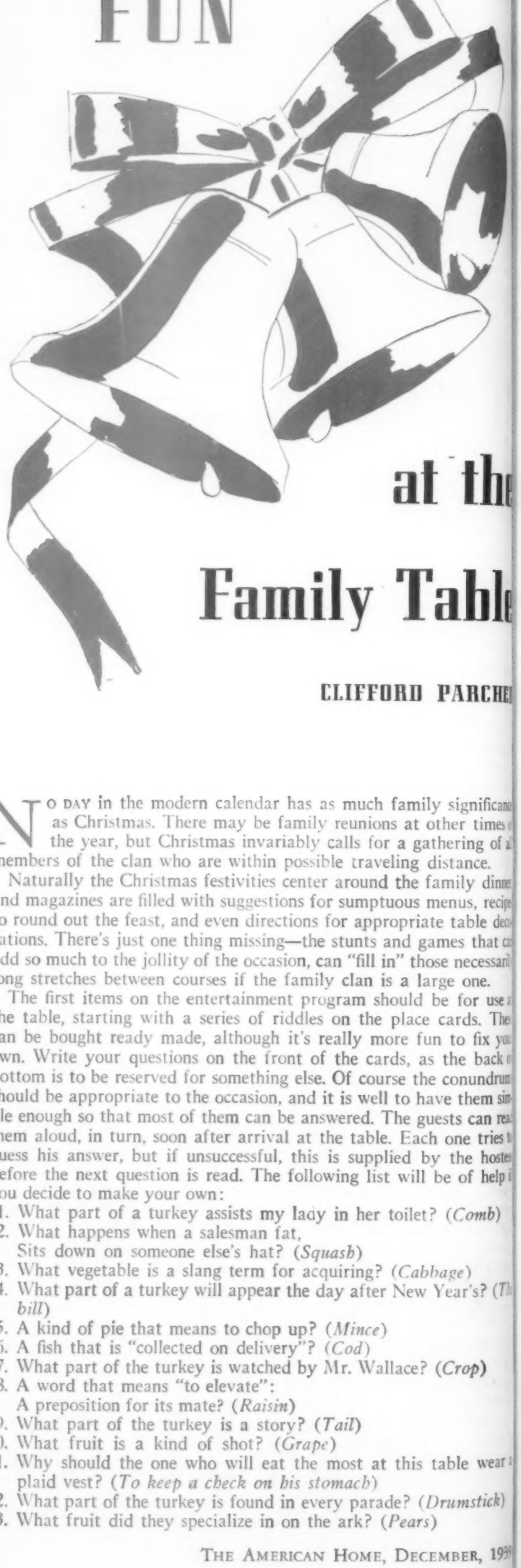
MOTHER ROLLED HER OWN noodles—and so does Heinz! We make real old-fashioned egg noodles—cut them into ribbons of goodness for Heinz Chicken Noodle Soup. Do try this savory broth with its tempting chicken and golden egg noodles!

HOW LONG SINCE you've tasted Heinz Chicken Gumbo Soup? Here's an old Creole favorite folks *relish!* It's chock-full of tender chicken, pearly rice, okra and other luscious, top-grade vegetables—skillfully seasoned to mouth-watering *perfection!*

REFRESHING AS A WHIFF of salt-sea air is Heinz Clam Chowder! Prepared from tender young clams and delicately seasoned vegetables, it's the same sort of robust, delectable soup that the gnarly old sea captains of New England used to relish!

GUESTS AT YOUR TABLE FOR 70 YEARS

FUN



at the Family Table

CLIFFORD PARCHER

NO DAY in the modern calendar has as much family significance as Christmas. There may be family reunions at other times of the year, but Christmas invariably calls for a gathering of all members of the clan who are within possible traveling distance.

Naturally the Christmas festivities center around the family dinner and magazines are filled with suggestions for sumptuous menus, recipes to round out the feast, and even directions for appropriate table decorations. There's just one thing missing—the stunts and games that can add so much to the jollity of the occasion, can "fill in" those necessarily long stretches between courses if the family clan is a large one.

The first items on the entertainment program should be for use at the table, starting with a series of riddles on the place cards. These can be bought ready made, although it's really more fun to fix your own. Write your questions on the front of the cards, as the back or bottom is to be reserved for something else. Of course the conundrums should be appropriate to the occasion, and it is well to have them simple enough so that most of them can be answered. The guests can read them aloud, in turn, soon after arrival at the table. Each one tries to guess his answer, but if unsuccessful, this is supplied by the hostess before the next question is read. The following list will be of help if you decide to make your own:

1. What part of a turkey assists my lady in her toilet? (*Comb*)
2. What happens when a salesman fat,
   Sits down on someone else's hat? (*Squash*)
3. What vegetable is a slang term for acquiring? (*Cabbage*)
4. What part of a turkey will appear the day after New Year's? (*The bill*)
5. A kind of pie that means to chop up? (*Mince*)
6. A fish that is "collected on delivery"? (*Cod*)
7. What part of the turkey is watched by Mr. Wallace? (*Crop*)
8. A word that means "to elevate":
   A preposition for its mate? (*Raisin*)
9. What part of the turkey is a story? (*Tail*)
10. What fruit is a kind of shot? (*Grape*)
11. Why should the one who will eat the most at this table wear a plaid vest? (*To keep a check on his stomach*)
12. What part of the turkey is found in every parade? (*Drumstick*)
13. What fruit did they specialize in on the ark? (*Pears*)

14. What pie is related to a well? (*Pump-kin*)
15. How do you tell the age of a turkey? (*By the teeth—your own, of course!*)

WHILE THE TURKEY'S BEING CARVED: There's always a little spare time while the turkey is being carved. Introduce a Turkey Race, with the people sitting on one side of the table competing against those sitting across the board. Each player has found at his own place a gay colored soda straw, and the captains, sitting at the right and left of the host, also have a turkey cut out of paper. Each captain picks up his turkey on the end of his straw by inhaling. He then passes it to the next player by exhaling at the moment the number two man *in*hales on *his* straw. The side which first passes its turkey down the length of the table and back again to the original player is the winner and is entitled to the first servings of the real turkey. If a turkey falls, it must be picked up by inhaling through the straw. Only the player from whose straw it fell may pick it up.

AFTER THE MAIN COURSE: After the main course these two teams again compete in a Toothpick and Raisin Race, using the colored toothpicks which are found at each place. The players at the end of the table away from the original captains are each given a saucer of raisins. In rotation, the players spear three raisins with their toothpicks, one at a time, and feed these to their next-door neighbors. The side that finishes first is the winner.

LINGER AT THE TABLE: And now, with the meal finished and a general desire to linger at the table, let's take a look at the bottom of the place-cards. Oh-ho! a different stunt for each person! Let one of the older children act as master of ceremonies for the stunt period and have full responsibility for supplying the simple properties needed. He decides how long should be allowed in each instance, as the feasters tackle their assignments one by one, and provides the solution where necessary. If you wish, you can impose forfeits on everyone who fails to carry out his stunt. And here's a good assortment of messages to put on the place-cards. The solutions are given for the benefit of the master of ceremonies, and of course, do not appear on the place-cards.

1. Float a needle on your glass of water. (Can be carefully floated off the tines of a fork or rested on a small piece of tissue paper which eventually sinks, leaving the needle on the surface of the water.)
2. Add 5 toothpicks to 6 to make nine. (Put the 5 down in a well-spaced row, then use the 6 to make the letters, "NINE.")
3. Make 2 straight lines of 4 each with 6 coins. (Arrange 5 coins in a right angle and put the 6th coin on top of corner coin.)
4. Put one penny under another placed on the table, without touching the second. (Hold under table.)
5. Lift 5 toothpicks by touching only 1. (Cross 2 diagonally; lay 3rd on top, at right angles to edge of table; put 4th and 5th horizontally under ends of diagonals and over ends of middle one.)
6. In the Brown family, each daughter has the same number of brothers as she has sisters, and each son has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many daughters and sons are there in the Brown family? (4 daughters and 3 sons.)
7. In a certain word of 8 letters, KST is in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end. There is only one K, one S and one T in the word. What is it? (The word is INK-STAND. KST is in the middle. IN is at the beginning—IN the beginning—and AND is at the end—AND at the end—.)
8. Read a complete phrase from o

   the following: Bed

   (A little darkey—dark e—in bed with nothing over him.
9. With 6 toothpicks make 11. (Roman numeral XI, 2 toothpicks high.)
10. Arrange the numbers from 1 to 16 in a square so that the sum of the figures in any row, vertical, horizontal or diagonal, will be 34. (Starting at top, the four rows, reading left to right, are: 16-3-2-13; 5-10-11-8; 9-6-7-12; and 4-15-14-1.)
11. Place 3 toothpicks in a row. Then remove the middle toothpick from its central position without touching it. (Move the 1st toothpick to the far side of the 3rd, thus changing the position of the original middle toothpick to 1st place.)
12. Guess within 5 the number of grapes in the fruit dish. (The actual count can be ascertained in advance.)

And now it's time to adjourn from the table and allow a little intermission before the entertainment program is resumed in the living room.

INTERMISSION

[Part II follows on page 54 in half an hour]

HOLIDAY TREATS FOR DIETERS!

A New Taste Sensation

MRS. KNOX'S

PLUM PUDDING

1 envelope Knox Gelatine • (Serves 6)
½ cup cold water • 1 cup milk • ½ cup seeded raisins • ½ cup sugar
¾ square chocolate or 3 tablespoonfuls cocoa • *½ cup dates
¼ teaspoonful salt • 2 egg whites • ¼ teaspoonful vanilla

Cook milk with chopped fruit slightly in double boiler. Add chocolate or cocoa, melted and mixed with part of sugar and a little milk to a smooth paste. Soften gelatine in cold water. Add to hot chocolate mixture; stir until dissolved. Add sugar, salt; stir thoroughly. Remove from fire, cool; when mixture thickens, add vanilla and fold in egg whites beaten very *stiff*. Turn into mold rinsed in cold water, decorated with raisins. Chill. When firm, remove to serving dish. Serve with ½ cup whipped cream.

NOTE: Don't confuse Knox Gelatine with factory-flavored gelatine desserts which are about 85% sugar. Be sure to use pure Knox Gelatine.

*Dates can be increased to ⅔ cup and ¼ cup currants, ¼ cup chopped nuts may be added, but this will increase the calories.

DELICIOUS DISHES—LOW IN CALORIES

Only 272 calories per serving in this festive Knox Plum Pudding. One serving of ordinary plum pudding reaches the staggering total of 674 calories. That's a grand example of the way these unusual treats—both desserts and salads—have cut calories to fit streamlined requirements. Amazing low-calorie butter and mayonnaise are included in an interesting, helpful new booklet. Send for it today.

KNOX GELATINE

IS PLAIN UNFLAVORED GELATINE—NO SUGAR

LESS CALORIES—LESS WEIGHT

Although 1 envelope (¼ pkg.) Knox Gelatine jells 1 pint liquid—serves six—it contains only 28 calories.

Special FREE Offer Discover how to keep fit—and avoid fat—with this new diet principle. It is fully described in a booklet which has been printed in a limited edition. Contains 30 of the new streamlined recipes. You can get a copy absolutely free if you send this coupon today. Knox Gelatine Company, Box 712, Johnstown, N. Y.

Name _____

Address _____

MR. HUNT GETS A LESSON !

1. "Welcome home, honey" beams Mr. Hunt. "Everything's fine—except the kitchen drain got clogged, and I haven't washed the dishes for a week!"

2. "A clogged drain—with Drāno in the house?" explodes Mrs. Hunt. "Hand me that can of Drāno in the cupboard—and watch!"

3. In the drain goes Drāno—out goes the clogging muck! Drāno gets down deep and *digs out* all the grease, grounds and stoppage.

4. "See, darling?" smiles Mrs. Hunt. "Drāno *cleans* drains—and a teaspoonful each night helps *keep* them clean, free-flowing!"

P. S. After the dishes—use a teaspoonful of Drāno to guard *against* clogged drains. Never over 25¢ at grocery, drug, hardware stores.

USE DRĀNO DAILY TO KEEP DRAINS CLEAN

Drāno CLEANS CLOGGED DRAINS

Copr. 1939, The Drackett Co.

PAYING TOO MUCH FOR HEAT ?

THEN MODERNIZE WITH IMPROVED HOFFMAN VACUUM VALVES

Owners of steam heating systems marvel at the economies made by Hoffman Vacuum Valves. Savings up to 30% in fuel are common when radiators are vacuumized with these money-savers.

Hoffman Vacuum Valves add greatly to your comfort, too. Vacuumizing your heating system makes radiators heat *quicker*—no waiting for heat. They hold heat *longer*—far into the night. And the "balancing" feature of Hoffman Valves assures uniform heating throughout the house.

Only Hoffman Valves have the new "short-tongue" siphon which permits easy installation in modern slender-tube radiators as well as older types.

Send for Free Booklet

Tells the whole story of Hoffman Vacuum Valve economy and comfort. Hoffman Specialty Co., Inc., Dept. AH-12, Waterbury, Conn.

HOFFMAN VACUUM VALVES
MORE HEAT FROM LESS FUEL

YARNS

CUT RATE PRICES
KNITTING WORSTEDS

Saxony, Shetlands, Velveens, etc. LOWEST CUT RATE PRICES. FREE Sample Color Card, instructions & NEW Style Flash. 30 new models. Write today. Est. 22 yrs. **F & K YARNS, 85 Essex St., (Dept. G-13), New York City.**

Give Your LINGERIE A LINIT BATH

Wash lingerie in mild soap and lukewarm water, and rinse. Then, fill basin with lukewarm water—pour about a teaspoonful of Linit into the palm of your hand and swish through the water to dissolve. Rinse garments in this Linit Bath and squeeze them out. Notice how they "perk up", iron easier, stay fresh longer!

FREE: Send post card for Linit Chart, it reveals the modern expert method of home laundering. Address: Corn Products Sales Company, Dept. A-12, P. O. Box 171, Trinity Station, N. Y. C.

WORKING OFF too much CHRISTMAS DINNER

CLIFFORD PARCHER

BACK on page 53 we called an intermission of a half hour between games and fun at the family table and games and fun in the living room, for even though games will help work off too much dinner, it's advisable to remember the size of the meal and start off with some stunts and games that won't require too much energy.

After "Intermission" is a good time to introduce Cahoots, with two of the junior members mystifying the rest of the family. One person is blindfolded and seated in a chair. His confederate stands behind him and asks if he is in cahoots. As soon as the blindfolded person recognizes the voice of anyone in the room who is speaking, he agrees that he is in cahoots. Then the confederate points at various persons and asks the blindfolded "mystic" if each of these is "in cahoots." The answer is no, until the confederate, pointing at the person whose voice was recognized, says, "Is he in cahoots with me?" The blindfolded player answers, "Yes," and gives that person's name. It's a good trick and not easily guessed.

A ROUND OF GOSSIP: A round of Gossip is always amusing, especially at a family party. One player whispers to the next a brief message, probably bringing in personalities, which has been written down on a piece of paper. The second player whispers it to the third, and so on around the circle. The final player tells the group what the message was as it reached him, and then the original is read. The changes are almost unbelievable.

Or why not pass out paper and pencils for a game of Word Squares. Each player draws a square on his paper and subdivides this into 25 smaller squares. Each player in rotation names one letter and everyone puts this down in any one of his squares. The point is to make as many and as long words as possible, reading both horizontally and vertically. No letter can be moved after it has been written down. When the 25 letters have been called, scores are counted up, allowing 5 points for 5-letter words, 4 points for those of 4 letters and 3 points for 3-letter words. Two-letter words do not count. For this and other competitive games, it adds to the fun to have inexpensive prizes—ten cent gadgets and mechanical toys.

THIS IS REALLY GREAT FUN! A couple of stunts will fit well into the program at this point. First, choose a victim for Photograph. Camera and other paraphernalia are brought in and the victim seated in a chair. The photographer goes out of the room and when he comes back takes considerable care in posing the subject, tilting the chin, turning the face, etc. In the meantime he has blackened his fingers and by the time the picture is taken, the subject's face is well smudged, much to the merriment of everyone else. Finally, the photographer asks the victim if he would like to see the result, and hands him a mirror.

For the other stunt, bet someone that he can't sing some well-known song and at the same time balance a glass of water on the back of each hand. Of course he will succeed but the fun comes in when he finds himself helpless to remove the glasses until someone comes to his rescue.

A WALNUT RACE, now that dinner is settled. Dinners should be well enough settled by this time to permit of some mildly active games. There are always walnuts on hand at Christmas so announce a Walnut Race. Two players compete at a time. Each is furnished three walnuts which must be pushed by the left foot only, from a starting line, down the room, around a book which marks the halfway post, and back to the line. Winners of each heat compete in a semi-final, and the eventual winner of the race is determined in a final run-off.

[Please turn to page 69]

We Build

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR DOLL'S CRADLE

4 PIECES
MORTISE TWO SIDES ¼" DEEP ¼" WIDE
ROUND TOPS
UNITS GLUED AND NAILED

MOULDINGS
TOP SIDE 2—16" x ⅜" x ¼"
BOTTOM 2—13½" x ⅜" x ¼"

Color illustration on page 38

a Doll's Cradle and Chest

LOUISE BRAITLING FARLEY

My husband and I together have always made our chief gift to our small daughter. For some curious reason I have yet to fathom (unless it is a reward of virtue for the willing labor expended by two parents) our homemade toys have gone over in a big way. The flannel cat made for her first Christmas still occasionally arrives at dolls' tea parties. The cradle made for her sixth Christmas and the trunk and its contents made for her seventh have been in constant service.

The Swedish cradle has been played with for many hours by the young fry and much admired by their elders. This is how it was made. The rockers and posts can be made of either white wood or pine—anything that can be worked with knife and scroll saw. In cutting the rockers it is better not to cut exactly with the grain, but rather with the tops of the rockers at about a forty-five degree angle. This for strength. The bottom can be made of any soft wood three quarters of an inch thick. Plywood should be used for the sides—you really need the strength here—but the moldings can be made of anything at all that is available.

When the cradle construction was complete we filled the imperfections with plastic wood, sanded it, and gave it two priming coats and a final coat of white enamel with Prussian blue tube paint and a touch of lamp black added. When the color is mixed in this way, extreme care should be taken to stir in thoroughly each addition of color. Otherwise the result may be streaked. The silver trim is aluminum radiator paint, and regular oil paints were used for the decorations.

This cradle would be charming, I think, done in a pine finish, in which case no plywood should be used and the finished product should be shellacked and rubbed down with steel wool several times.

I made the mattress and pillow of pillow ticking and used a kapok-pillow for the stuffing. A patchwork quilt would be most attractive on this cradle—particularly so on one of pine. I made a pink percale cover, blanket-stitched in blue with a blue duck appliqué.

[*Please turn to page 78*]

Ask Your Doctor
what he thinks about
STANDARDS
OF CLEANLINESS

DOCTORS REALIZE better than most people that standards of cleanliness too often are taken for granted. They will tell you that no mother who takes her job seriously can afford to overlook this important part of her child's training. And she must begin it *early*.

Luxury Texture ScotTissue has all the qualities essential for thorough cleansing . . . firmness, softness, absorbency.

Even your children can easily tell the difference between the harsh or glazed texture of inferior bathroom tissue and the reassuring softness and absorbency of ScotTissue's Luxury Texture.

Teach your child *now* the lifelong value of proper standards of cleanliness. Keep Luxury Texture ScotTissue in your bathroom. Scott Paper Co., Chester, Pa., also makers of Waldorf Tissue and ScotTowels for home use.

ACCEPTED PARENTS' MAGAZINE CONSUMERS SERVICE

Copr., 1939, Scott Paper Company

Luxury Texture

GIVES YOU THE
GREATER SOFTNESS
AND GREATER ABSORBENCY YOU NEED

For a really *choice* gift that's sure to be appreciated — or for the enrichment of your own home — you will naturally select one of Imperial's beautiful new MASTERS Tables. These 12 fine creations are the last word in smart practical tables. They include the most fashionable types and styles, are skillfully crafted of genuine mahogany, yet are moderately priced. See the MASTERS Tables now at your leading furniture or department store.

The ALLISON
You'll be so proud to give—or receive—this charming 18th century lamp table. Pierced gallery. Convenient lower shelf. All mahogany with matched swirl mahogany top. $19.75*

The SHELLEY
Truly an outstanding choice is this handsome Duncan Phyfe dropleaf occasional table. Richly carved cluster base. All mahogany with matched swirl mahogany drawer front. $34.50*

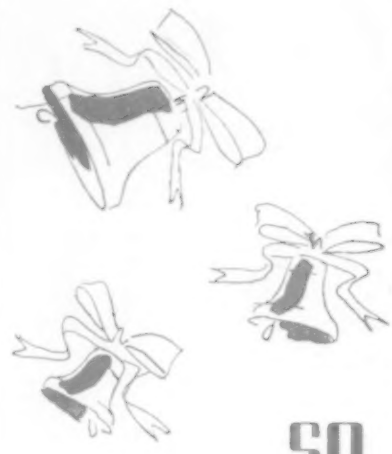
The STUART
This smart Chippendale tripod occasional table serves a multitude of uses. Carved pie crust top. All mahogany with matched swirl mahogany top. $24.75*

*Price slightly higher at distant points

How to be sure you get the best buy in Tables

Many people find it difficult to recognize the features that constitute fine furniture quality. In buying tables, follow this simple procedure. Look for the famous Green Shield trademark. It is found on the under side of every genuine Imperial Table, and is your assurance of lasting satisfaction and value. Imperial MASTERS Tables are further identified by a green-and-black display tag bearing description and price.

IMPERIAL FURNITURE CO.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



SO MANY —for SO LITTLE!

ELIZABETH STEWART

TEA time has always been woman's hour with woman. Where the pale blue blouse and gloves you chose to "tie" your last year's suit to your black sailor with the blue veil are appreciated and admired out loud. Where Mrs. Dee's daughter's engagement to the army captain is whispered the first time. But it can also be the perfect way to entertain formally yet inexpensively or solve still another holiday entertaining problem — that of "mixing ages." But make it a tea that is talked about, one your society editor can say much about besides "lovely lace cloth, guarded by tall tapers." A tea that sparkles and vibrates.

Suppose it is a church, school or club tea, for here again a Harvest or Christmas Tea is an elegant solution, and you are chairman. Sit down and go over your assets before calling your committee together. If you are just one of the committee, sit down anyway and accumulate some good ideas to spring, aware that the idea-springer is apt to have the job tossed in her lap. Then the fun begins, matching resources against obstacles which may be Mrs. Status Quo or Mrs. It Won't Work, or No-Money-In-The-Treasury. Cure the first two with lots of enthusiasm and little talk, the third by finding the acres of diamonds in your own back yard. Invitations, going to every lodge or church member and all friends, are personally addressed and have in them an appropriate money container to be left on the tea plate. By this means invitees who are unable to accept the invitation usually send their offering.

A Harvest Tea table is covered with a peasant linen cloth, red checked cloth or place mats. The pumpkin centerpiece is bored with about twelve small holes (use potato parer or brace and bit) for the thin dripless tapers used in flower bowls. These can be bought in autumn colors to blend with pottery. Under the pumpkin is an appetizer board on which are arranged green and red pepper, purple grapes, persimmons, pomegranates, oranges, carrots, radishes —anything available that is full of color and has nice form. Pottery decanters are used for serving tea or coffee; pottery plates and cups. If you borrow these, small squares of adhesive tape on the bottoms bearing initials of owners make sorting and returning simple. A one-piece tea party of individual pumpkin pies, or squares of gingerbread topped with whipped cream and orange peel or ground peanut brittle is enjoyed and easy. One baker may specialize in little pies and give a good group price. If your donators prefer small cakes and sandwiches, ask them to use brown, orange, tan and yellow; for instance peanut butter cookies, wee and thin; hard boiled egg yolk or yellow cheese in rolled sandwiches; tiny ice box cookies, brownies. Be sure to light the candles before guests enter even though Emily Post does say you must draw the shades. Use a pottery cereal bowl or saucer for the silver offering, loaning it a few quarters in case some dollar bill owner is quarter minded.

TEA BY THE FIRESIDE is returning to favor because it is one of the simplest forms of entertaining and also, as our tea table setting on page 22 shows you, one of the most exquisite, most charming. This handsome round linen cloth with Cluny lace insertion and deep edging is reminiscent of former tea-cup days. Round cloths are usually hard to find. If you own one, you'll prize it. (Antique cherry table from W. and

[*Please turn to page 90*]

Snow Village of BREAD

Walter Beebe Wilder

EASY! original! —it's loads of fun!

JEAN HERSEY

A HOUSE of bread sounds fantastic and complicated, but quite the contrary—it is really simple and loads of fun to do! When you find Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, a children's party, or any other exciting event creeping upon you, the last flowers are often frozen and dead. If the urge for something ingenious and appealing seizes you, sharpen the bread knife, get a couple of loaves of stale bread, roll up your sleeves and begin.

Small models of New England's most picturesque spired churches, tiny Cape Cod houses, little old school buildings, all may be sliced from a mere loaf of bread in a manner astonishing to see and exciting to do. Your architectural inclinations and artistic instincts will come quickly to the fore as you see how easy it is to carve the most enchanting diminutive buildings. You may develop whole villages whose originality and charm will practically assure the success of any dinner party—or individual houses that would cause the gingerbread abode of Hansel and Gretel to pale, melt and dissolve with envy!

You may prefer to build one house—a copy of one you loved and grew up in, or the house you long for and plan to build someday, or just a pretty place you saw in last month's AMERICAN HOME. Whatever you like may be yours for the carving, and be it a house or a village it will greatly enhance the next festive occasion that looms on your horizon!

For either one house or a village this is what is needed. Gather together one bread board for the base of operations—the acreage so to speak—a couple of loaves of stale bread, a sharp bread knife, and a small sharp vegetable knife. Get a box of toothpicks for holding the different sections together and for making firm the chimneys and door sills. Two bowls of frosting are needed, one white for stuccoing the house (made of confectioner's sugar, butter, and milk) and one dark brown or red or any color you like for shingling the roof (made same way plus melted unsweetened chocolate, or coloring). Next you need a cake decorator for laying the roof and outlining things, and a plain kitchen knife for stuccoing the walls. A roll of cotton, white as it comes, supplies the snow banks around the ground outside the house. A bit of artificial snow for scattering over the finished product is also needed. This is especially nice on some tiny two to six inch evergreen trimmings. You'll want plenty of these tiny trees for the foundation planting and shrubbery.

WHEN you have gathered all these ingredients together, add about an hour of spare time and proceed. To build one small New England farm house first neatly slice off all crusts from both loaves of bread. See page 23. To make the knife cut wonderfully well hold it in a hot flame a few seconds before each slice. You will then have a couple of oblong blocks of bread at hand. For the main section of the house cut one piece about six inches long; for the wing a piece about four inches long. Shape the roof on each one. Cut out a couple of good sturdy chimneys from what is left over, a tiny triangle to go over the front door, a couple of pillars for each side of it, and don't forget the front steps. Then comes the fun of putting the house together with toothpicks, adding chimneys, front steps, etc. Use the toothpicks as you would nails. Shove plenty in all about to make it firm, pushing the ends out of sight. The frosting will cover any holes in the bread or slight mistakes! Cut a few long strips of crust and make them firm with toothpicks along the edge of the roof from its ridge poles down to the sides. It will look more attractive and somewhat thatched if the shingles can extend on these over each end beyond the house wall.

Next mix the bowls of frosting. The simplest kind to make for

Sharpen your pencil and
Use This Book...

if you want to save some money

Suppose you have a fire in your home. Would you be able to tell *exactly* the cost of everything burned? Could you remember when you bought each item and what you originally paid for it? And certainly not the least, are you sure you would have enough insurance to pay for the damage properly?

Here's Your Simple Answer

In a handy Employers' Group Household Inventory you can keep an accurate list of all your belongings, room by room. You put in black and white, original costs and dates of purchase. You have a record of all your insurance — the coverages, expiration dates, and premiums. You know exactly how well your home is protected. You are sure of getting fair claim settlements—sure of saving money.

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Address.....

stuccoing is mixed in the following manner. This amount is adequate for the house just described: 1 cup confectioner's sugar, 1 teaspoon butter, and a little milk.

Cream the butter and sugar, add enough milk to make a consistency that will spread easily. This quantity will cover the house generously. For the roofing use the same amount again but add enough melted chocolate or coloring to give it a nice deep tone that would be becoming to a roof. This kind of frosting is apt to dry out if left standing for a while. More milk can always be added and if it gets too soft more sugar will stiffen it. Thus it can be easily kept a consistency best for spreading.

Use a plain knife and spread the white frosting over all outside walls and chimneys. Next put on the roof using the end on the cake decorator that sends the frosting out flat like a ribbon. Lay the ribbons of frosting across the roof from end to end. Begin at the bottom and let each ribbon overlap the one below it slightly to give the effect of rows of shingles. Next screw on the decorator the end that sends the frosting out completely round like a string. With this, outline the chimneys and the front door and windows —crossbarring the latter for the best effect.

When the completed house is sitting neat and prim in the middle of the bread board, the next thought is landscaping. First of all unroll the cotton and put it about covering the whole board. Tuck it up as close to the house as possible. Arrange lots of tiny pieces of evergreen into a foundation planting that satisfies. Use additional clumps of taller evergreen sprigs about the lawn in groups. To make them stand up cut blocks of bread and slip them beneath the cotton. Then shove the stem of each evergreen twig down through the cotton into the bread and it will stand upright indefinitely. Cut squares or oblong pieces of crust and lay a flagstone walk starting at the front door and wandering anywhere you like. If you've an urge for a pond, and every good house has or would like to have at least one small one, place a tiny mirror (hang bag size) somewhere on the lawn, covering the edges with cotton. Be sure to put a planting of trees on at least one side of the pond.

The flagstone walk all but completes the job! The pond is just one more crowning touch. When these last two details are finished place the completed work of art—for it will certainly be that—in the center of the table and surround it with evergreens lest odd corners of the bread board show through. And as a very final contribution let a gentle storm of Christmas snow descend on the whole scene.

A VILLAGE IS EVEN EASIER! If you prefer a village to a house, that is even easier. Make the houses smaller. Use little square boxlike pieces of bread to start with. Don't frost them with white frosting. The natural bread forms a stuccolike wall. Roof them with flat pieces of crust held on by toothpicks. Outline roofs, chimneys, doors, and windows with chocolate to give point and emphasis to their shape and line. Every good village must have a church with a steeple, and a steeple is fun to make. Outline all four corners of it with chocolate. There must be a school with a flag. Glue a piece of red paper to a toothpick. (There's a bit of red in the design on the oil paper that most bread comes in.) Don't forget the old swimming hole at the end of the village somewhere—perhaps behind the school. The village green must have trees of course and there must be an informal road or at least wagon-wheel tracks made of crusts laid in the cottony snow!

Both a bread village and a house are very simple to make. But if you are feeling expansive and have a wild imagination, of course you can go on and on getting more and more complicated about it. You can have villages of multicolored houses—roofs any tint you like. You can surround the houses with fences of graham crackers end to end. There's no limit to the possibilities. And if you have a great desire to eat the whole scene up with your ice cream you can start with a loaf of sponge cake instead of bread!

Door Basket *for* Christmas

[*Illustrated on pages 20 and 21*]

A DEPARTURE from the conventional wreath on the front door is the basket filled with holly or evergreens and cones. It is just as beautiful as the wreath and oftentimes more individual. These baskets are made by the blind and may be obtained from your local Blind Exchange. Buy one this year and fill it not only with Christmas greens, but with plenty of Christmas spirit. In this way you will be helping these workers to help themselves.

—L. S. STEARNS

OKAY NOSEY! IF YOU WANT TO READ, READ THIS!
No Other Leading Brand Can Match This:
1. BECAUSE OF CHLOR-THYMOL, sensational, safe Germ-Killer, Pepsodent Antiseptic kills germs in seconds even when diluted with 2 parts water. No other leading brand can do this.
2. BECAUSE OF CHLOR-THYMOL tests show these results. Gargling with Pepsodent Antiseptic diluted with 2 parts water immediately reduces the bacterial count in the mouth by as much as 97%. No other leading brand can do this!
3. BECAUSE OF CHLOR-THYMOL Pepsodent Antiseptic makes your money go 3 times as far. When diluted with 2 parts of water, it is as effective as other leading brands used full strength. No other leading brand can match this!
Daily
PEPSODENT ANTISEPTIC
BAD BREATH
Pepsodent Antiseptic
PEPSODENT ANTISEPTIC keeps your breath sweeter for Critical Close-ups!

YOU Can Make!

How straight can you saw? If your aim is good you need not hesitate to try either of these home projects. Both houses are easy to build, cost of materials negligible

HI SIBLEY

A SCROLL saw is the ideal machine for the job but, lacking that, a good handsaw will serve you nicely, with a coping saw for the window and door openings. Both houses are constructed of quarter inch plywood, which means that the saw-teeth should be sharp and not too coarse in order to prevent tearing the veneer.

ON THE MONTEREY DESIGN the base is cut first. This is of ⅜ in. plywood—heavier if you wish—and the floor plan marked out on that. A piece of quarter inch plywood is secured to the base with brads and casein glue, the size of the floor plan, but ¼ inch smaller on all sides to allow for the walls. In other words, this rectangle will be 11½ inches by 21½ inches. Next cut out the end walls, and the front and rear walls for a preliminary fitting, following with the second-floor and second-floor ceiling and partitions. Hold them in place temporarily with small brads.

I shall describe a different method of making the window sash in each house, so that the builder may take his choice. The Dutch Colonial arrangement is the better, and more convincing, though not as simple as this one.

When you are satisfied that your carpenter work will pass the building inspector, take the various members apart and cut out windows and doorways. Put celluloid panes on the *outside* of the window openings with cement, lapping about ⅛ in. all around, and then paste on strips of white passe partout to serve as the sash. After this, glue on the sill, shutters and lintel, as indicated on working sketch, page 39.

Use casein waterproof glue and bear in mind that the contacting surfaces should be raw wood, never painted. It is permissible to use the little brads as well as glue in this work; also the shutters may be painted on the exposed side and edges before glueing permanently. The walls are white.

Front and rear doors are merely outlined with strips of wood to form the frames. These doors are dummies. In the rear wall,

How wonderful—if this happened *in your family*

SUCH a result is *not* impossible. It actually *did* happen. 2,650 school children—in their homes and at school—were clinical subjects for 5 months—in a test of Vicks Plan, a simple home guide consisting of a few rules of hygiene and the proper use of two specialized medications. The amazing results shown above are from doctors' certified records of this clinic.

Yes, how wonderful it would be if misery and sickness from colds in your family could be cut by half—and by such a simple, easily followed plan. Of course Vicks Plan may not do as much in your home. Or it may do even more! But with such a record, it certainly deserves a trial in every home—especially where there are children.

Directions for following Vicks Plan and the story of the clinical tests come with every bottle of Vicks Va-tro-nol, and every jar of Vicks VapoRub.

When Colds Threaten—

To help keep colds from developing, put a few drops of Vicks Va-tro-nol up each nostril at the first sneeze, sniffle or nasal irritation.

This specialized medication—containing several relief-giving agents plus ephedrine—is expressly designed for the nasal passages, where most colds start. Va-tro-nol stimulates Nature's own defenses to help *prevent the development* of many colds—to throw them off in their early stages.

When you see the results, you will understand why Vicks Va-tro-nol is America's favorite nasal medication.

If a Cold Strikes—

To relieve discomforts and invite healing, restful sleep, rub throat, chest, and back with Vicks VapoRub at bedtime.

This specialized medication goes right to work to bring relief two ways at once. (1) It penetrates the surface skin and stimulates like a warming, comforting poultice. (2) Its medicinal vapors, released by body heat, are breathed into the cold-irritated air passages.

And when you see how distress of the cold is relieved, you will understand why Vicks VapoRub is a trusted, indispensable friend in 3 out of 5 homes.

The use of Va-tro-nol and VapoRub is an essential part of Vicks Plan

"WESSON OIL
will make you an
Ace Waffle Maker" says
MRS. EDDIE
RICKENBACKER
WIFE OF THE FAMOUS WAR ACE
"They are so easy to make, so crisp and delicious. We serve them often at informal supper parties and luncheons."
WESSON Waffles
2 eggs
1½ cups milk
½ cup Wesson Oil
2½ cups sifted flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons sugar
Beat egg yolks with milk and Wesson Oil. Sift flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar together and stir into liquid, mixing just enough to make a smooth batter. Fold in stiffly-beaten egg whites. Bake on a hot waffle iron. Serve hot with honey, jam, cane, maple or corn syrup. This makes 6 delicious waffles the easy Wesson way. No melting of the shortening or waiting for it to cool. You just pour Wesson Oil to measure, pour to mix.

CORN FRITTERS

Wesson Oil is ideal for frying because you can heat it well above proper frying temperatures without smoking or burning. This is your insurance that the foods you fry in Wesson Oil are delicious and digestible.

1 No. 2 can cream style corn
4 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons Wesson Oil
Salt and pepper
1 tablespoon grated onion
2 eggs

Combine corn, flour, Wesson Oil, seasonings and onion and stir into well-beaten egg yolks. Fold in stiffly-beaten egg whites. Drop from spoon in hot, deep Wesson Oil (370° F.) or hot enough to brown a one-inch cube of bread in 50 seconds. Fry until a golden brown. Drain on absorbent paper and serve hot. This makes 16 small fritters.

STRING BEANS WITH GOLDEN CRUMBS

Wesson Oil improves the texture and flavor of hot vegetables and adds nutritive value. Try this tested hot vegetable dish made delicious with Wesson Oil.

1 No. 2 can or 2½ cups fresh, cooked string beans
4 tablespoons Wesson Oil
¼ cup fine cracker crumbs
½ teaspoon salt
Pepper

Heat beans in saucepan, drain and combine with Wesson Oil, crumbs and seasonings. Heat together, in saucepan or frying pan, mixing gently until beans are coated with crumbs and the crumbs are golden brown. This makes 4 to 6 servings.

You will enjoy Mrs. Rickenbacker's Wesson Waffle recipe. Try it. You'll find Wesson Waffles so good you'll want to try other Wesson dishes, too. Wesson Oil is a fine salad oil—an excellent shortening for all batters — a wholesome frying fat — a perfect ingredient for enriching hot vegetables — all in one handy can.

NEW — WESSON Oil Recipe Book — FREE

Wesson Oil & Snowdrift People, Dept. BB
210 Baronne Street, New Orleans, La.

Gentlemen: Please send me free your new recipe book "How to make all kinds of good things to eat with Wesson Oil." I understand it is filled with your new tested recipes for salad bowls, hot vegetable dishes, waffles and fried foods.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____

Buy Some WESSON OIL — at your grocer's.

however, a panel is hinged to open in to the bathroom and kitchen, which would otherwise be inaccessible.

Note that the front wall lifts off, together with the balcony, as a unit. The latter is of the simplest construction, with a French door (also a dummy, though with celluloid and sash similar to the windows), pillars, and handrail. The small spindles are glued into slots in upper and lower rails, as shown. To remove the wall, simply pull out from the bottom, and to replace, reverse the process. It rests on small rubber strips at each end, preventing it from slipping out.

A simple stairway is made by glueing wood blocks together, each successive block ¾ inches shorter than the one below. The steps should be 2 inches wide. Sandpaper the unit smoothly so that joints will not be visible after painting. The interior of the rooms may be painted or wallpapered. Some interesting effects are achieved by the latter treatment. On the outside, paint the roof a rich green, same on the shutters, and around the base except at the front, which should be done in slate gray, with white markings to indicate flagging. Red doors are having their vogue and are applicable here. Window boxes are simply solid blocks with holes bored for stems of bright artificial flowers.

THE DUTCH COLONIAL construction (shown on page 40) is along the same lines as those of the Monterey, except that the front half of the roof as well as the front wall comes off in one piece. The hip of the roof is reinforced with the dummy dormers, which are solid blocks glued on, with windows painted in black, the frame and sash made as in the lower floor windows. Flower boxes are identical with those in the Monterey house.

A different arrangement is used here for the window sash, somewhat more work but at the same time more convincing. Slender strips of "hard" balsa (available in the 1/16 inch by 1/16 inch size at model airplane stores) are cut to size and glued directly upon the celluloid, which in this case is cemented *inside* the opening of the window.

Red for the roof, green for the base and shutters make a lively color combination, with cream or ivory walls. Many accessories, easily made, will suggest themselves for either of these little homes; artificial trees of green sponge rubber, potted box trees, a white picket fence, sundial, birdbath, pergola—and by all means, the inevitable barbecue fireplace, made of glued-up blocks and painted to resemble bricks.

I'll wager that you'll be richly rewarded—for that little girl is going to enjoy this more than any present you could buy for her!

Wreaths and Decorations

[Illustrated on pages 17-19]

THE wreaths that Helen Perry Curtis made especially for us (pages 17 and 18) are each one of particular interest as they have been made not only of unusual materials, but each one to fit the space for which it was intended—which is one of the great advantages of making one's own wreaths. The beautiful little one that hangs in a small window over a French chair on page 17 is made of holly and mahonia and rose hips, rather formal, at the same time very full and fat and a little on the bronzish side to fit with the color scheme of the room. And the hanging wreath which Mrs. Curtis made for her own kitchen, with its gay wall decoration and tiling, has fruits worked in to repeat the colors on a base of three evergreens; balsam, pine, and holly. Again where a wreath with fruits is wanted, you can ring any number of changes in the fruits themselves, such as using the big black grapes and white ones too, against the dark of holly and pine. For a very simple but effective wreath just the gloss of washed ivy thickly wound around and around makes a beautiful all green wreath, or a single spray of one of the pines that has great long cones, such as the Austrian pine, is a lovely thing hanging over the edge of a gold framed painting. (See page 19.)

None of Mrs. Curtis's wreaths requires endless research of resources for the material, simply a little care and thought in the use of just the ordinary greens and materials at hand.

This Story Began on Page 24

FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES

I DECIDED to try, and my first experiment took the form of a Sunday morning breakfast—the typical New England breakfast of my childhood. I made two concessions to modern taste: I set it at noon instead of nine, and I placed two large pitchers of fruit juice on the sideboard, where persons who felt this form of refreshment indispensable could help themselves. Aside from this I changed nothing. I offered my guests coffee, baked beans, fish balls, brown bread, doughnuts, and apple sauce.

The recipes were all tried and true. The food was all cooked in my own diminutive kitchen. Amidst clamorous enthusiasm, it disappeared from one heaped plate after another. The coffee urn was refilled again and again. Mounds of sugared doughnuts were soon reduced to the level of the platter. Dignitaries who had told me they could not look another squab in the face took three helpings of beans. As the last visitor departed, the remark that many of them had made was still ringing through the rooms: "I don't know when I've had such a good time! Why don't you make a regular feature of these breakfasts?"

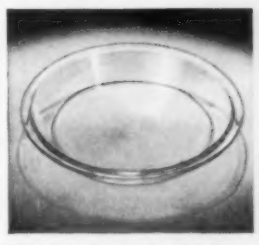
Much encouraged, I decided to do so. The result has invariably been satisfactory. A Sunday noon breakfast has many advantages. It is late enough to permit prospective guests either to go to church or to sleep most of the morning, according to their tastes and habits; on the other hand, it provides for a longer afternoon than a late and formal luncheon. From the viewpoint of economy, as well as convenience, it can hardly be surpassed. The dishes I have mentioned are as hearty as they are inexpensive; and there is no question of serving liquor—a sure way to send the cost of a party skyrocketing!—at breakfast-time. Six of my favorite recipes you'll find on page 25.

THE method of serving is as simple as the menu itself. The fruit juice, as I have already said, is placed on the sideboard. A pitcher of orange juice and a pitcher of loganberry juice make a good combination. The colors are effective together, and while the more conservative element sticks to orange juice, persons in quest of "something new" choose the less usual beverage. A big pitcher of ice water, surrounded by glasses, is also placed on the sideboard. (I have gone thirsty myself at so many buffet parties, that I try to see no one does it in my home!) At one end of the round dining table, into which I put no leaves, is an old-fashioned coffee urn which holds two quarts. One of my assistants keeps a watchful eye on this, to see that it is taken into the kitchen for refilling as often as necessary. Another friend pours, and encourages the guests to take their cups and saucers to the side of the table, where plates, forks and napkins are laid out for them. At the further end still another assistant serves the beans, fish balls and apple-sauce, and indicates the platters of brown bread and doughnuts, which are within easy reach. Fully supplied, the guests choose their own places at the little tables scattered about the double drawing-room and the small study. By careful planning and arrangement, twenty-five persons can be comfortably seated in my apartment. I never ask more than that, for there is nothing, in my opinion, less conducive to a sense of ease and enjoyment than to stand in an overcrowded room, precariously balancing a plate of food in mid-air.

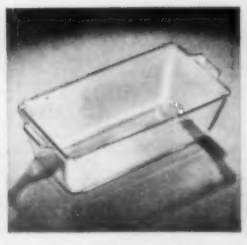
My housekeeper, who has prepared all the food herself, does

THERE ARE FEW GIFTS that go to a woman's heart like gleaming Pyrex ware! And this year you can make your gift all the more exciting. Because in many cases a dollar will buy *twice* as much of this modern cooking-storing-and-serving ware as it would have a couple of Christmases ago! And remember, sets are attractively gift-boxed at no extra cost. Look for the trade-mark "PYREX" stamped on every dish, and the famous replacement offer! Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York.

Mother'll be *upset* if she doesn't get this *cup* set! Six Pyrex utility cups in the new rimless style, for custards, refrigerator storage, or tidbits. Gift packed..... **39¢**



Flakier crusts with this Pyrexmas pie plate bargain! 11½" size 35c; 10½", 30c; 9½", 25c; 8½" (serves 5) **20¢**



Let them eat cake! Breads and meats look tasty, too, in this oblong Pyrex loaf pan. 9⅛" length.. **45¢**

A 2-in-1 Pyrexmas surprise! Double duty casserole with pie plate cover. 3 qt. size 95c; 2 qt., 75c; 1½ qt., 65c; 1 qt. **50¢**

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10 pieces including 9⅛" bread or loaf pan, 1½ qt. casserole with knob cover, 10½" utility dish, 9½" pie plate, and six gleaming Pyrex custard cups. Packed in gift box **$2.15**

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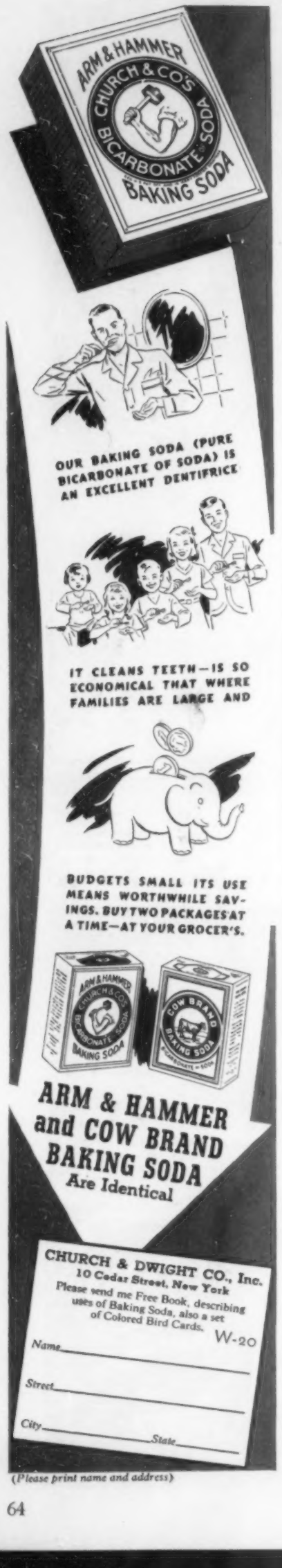
New low price! Sturdy Pyrex all-glass teakettle. Smart for table use. Full year replacement offer. 2½ qt size. Was $3.25, now only..... **$2.95**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not leave the kitchen. She keeps everything piping hot, replenishes the empty platters that are brought to her, and continues to make fresh coffee as long as the guests remain, which is sometimes well into the afternoon. One "accommodating" waitress, engaged for the occasion, circulates among the guests after they are seated, bringing them fresh supplies, emptying their ash trays, and keeping a generally watchful eye on their well-being. She comes early enough before the breakfast to help set the tables, get out extra china, make butter balls, ice water, etc., and remains long enough after it is over to help wash the dishes. But an hour or so suffices for the latter; a one course meal does not take many dishes, even though twenty-five persons are served.

Such a breakfast as I have described costs about ten dollars exclusive of cigarettes, extra service, and decorations. The expense entailed by employing an accommodator varies, of course, in different parts of the country. Here an expert waitress receives three dollars. In the South she usually receives less, and in the North and West she is apt to receive more. I buy my flowers at the Saturday market, which is excellent in Washington, as it is in many cities, and for two or three dollars get an astonishing number of them. I generally use small chrysanthemums in the fall and daffodils in the spring. If a woman has her own garden or lives where she has easy access to rural greenhouses, she can reduce this item still further.

I have only one regret—that I did not learn long ago, how outmoded is the old theory that "it costs money to entertain." I have written this article with the hope of helping some other woman to find it out sooner than I did!

Christmas for first generation Americans

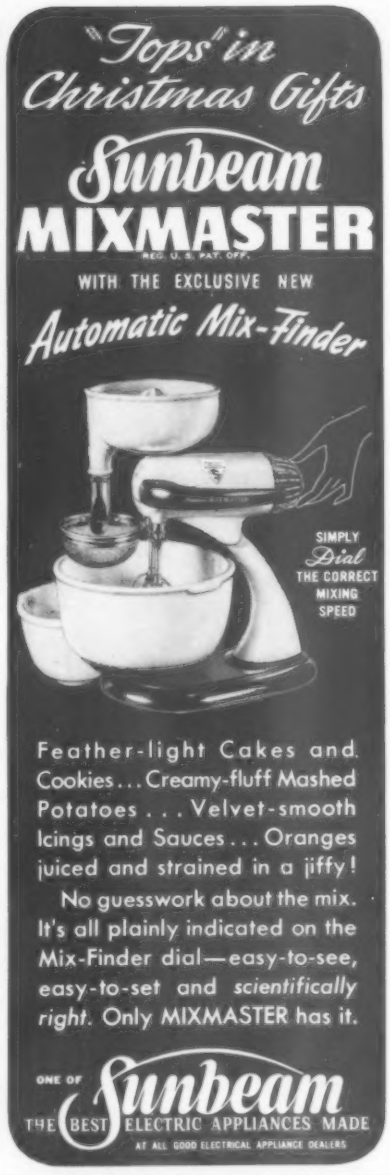
[*Continued from page 50*]

the future a day for baking would be set aside during the week before Christmas in which our children and their little cousins and friends would be invited to help in the making of Christmas cookies among which would be a batch of Cuccidati, the original recipe changed only by the substitution of a more modern shortening which would keep the pastry fresh and tender for a longer time.

The one observance, however, that stood paramount in our memories of childhood Christmases was the privilege of attending midnight mass on Christmas Eve. How vividly we remembered the entire experience—the crunching of the dry snow as we walked to church in the starry stillness of the night, the jostling of the friendly crowds all trying to get into church at the same time, the pungent smell of the fir trees and branches used as interior decorations, and best of all, the first glimpse we caught of the *Presipio!* For each year, under the tallest fir tree that ever we had seen, was arranged the complete Nativity Scene with a most beautiful figure of the Christ-Child in the center. Then with those magic words "Gloria In Excelsis Deo" the Christmas Sermon was started. And as we listened we lived again every moment of the Miracle Birth from the curt refusal of admission into the inn to the awe and wonder of the kings and shepherds upon seeing the Christ-Child in his lowly birthplace. Then the moment for which we had long been waiting—as the choir sang "Adeste Fideles" the congregation formed a procession around the church until each one had a chance to kneel before the Christ-Child and kiss Him.

It was the memory of this old church ritual that decided us that in the future each Christmas would see a reproduction of the Nativity Scene in our home. Last Christmas, starting in a very modest way, we built a stable (copied from the picture of one in a book) of three-ply wood, and stained it walnut. The Nativity figures and the animals (purchased from the ten-cent store) were given three coats of clear shellac to make them waterproof and iron glue was used on bottom of the figures to keep them in place. As we told the story of the Miracle Birth to our children we arranged the figures in the traditional positions. This stable was then placed in front of the dense evergreen planting that is the background of our garden-pool, and on the tip of the tallest of the trees we placed a large mother-of-pearl Star of Bethlehem that cast its light directly over the little manger below. Inside the stable, but out of view, was placed an amber-bulb (borrowed from our photographic dark-room in the cellar) which seemed to throw a magic light on the figures below.

The interest in our outdoor display, shown not only by the older folk but also by the younger children, amply repaid us for the small effort that went into the project and more than ever convinced us that by turning to the beautiful story of Christmas we had at last found a way of celebrating Christmas that could combine the best features of old-world and new-world Christmases.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JULIETTA K. ARTHUR

ABOVE you see Beulah Kuh, known from coast to coast as "The Party Girl" and who "gives" more than a thousand parties a year! Although her unique ideas are in demand for elaborate affairs for theatrical stars, state officials, and the mythical "400," she is emphatic in her belief that "the good party is one that an ingenious person can give anywhere at all."

All parties, says Miss Kuh, can be divided, like Gaul, into three parts. First of all, there are the children's affairs which outnumber the others ten to one. From the ages of one to twelve years, the principal need is careful prearrangement, and supervision at the party itself.

Then comes entertainment for the adolescent and the young boy or girl up to twenty. These are the young people you must be careful to treat with all the formality you would accord adults, but whose parties require a special technique of their own.

The third group is the easiest of all to handle. These are the older men and women who have usually done just one kind of entertaining all their lives and are thrilled with almost anything out-of-the-ordinary which takes their minds away from bridge, topics of the day, styles, and finances.

Out of eleven years' experience in supervising more than one thousand parties a year, Beulah Kuh has formulated some simple rules which she says she follows in all her parties, and the most important of these rules is *planning*—regardless of size, geographical location, or amount of money to be expended. Her theory is that party-giving should be a lark, not a headache, and here's how you can manage it.

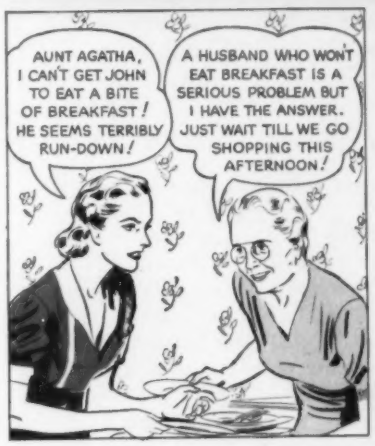
Plan every minute of your child's party by the clock to keep it from running wild. If you don't, it'll be helter-skelter, you'll get a headache, and the children will get a stomach-ache—or worse.

A SUCCESSFUL children's party, like a good business letter, should be short and sweet. Two hours, rather than three, is the right time allotment, and leave one of those two hours for the important washing-up and eating process. Eliminate entirely competitive games between children, and substitute instead, competition between groups. All children love to take something home, so select simple, inexpensive prizes, to be given for different ratings in the games. Wrap them attractively in individual packages and distribute one to every child as a souvenir. Keep food at your children's party simple, but cut your cookies in fancy animal or vegetable shapes, and serve your ice-cream in amusing forms that will send the boy and girl away happy.

At the 'teen and college age, the important question is, not "Who will my guests be, but how many can I have?" The most engrossing problem of this age group is "how to meet new people." The most popular food, Miss Kuh finds, is hamburgers or frankfurters—but serve them in the most elaborate setting with the most sophisticated table arrangements, else your young people will go home feeling cheated. There must be music for dancing, but whatever else you plan, begin with a modern variation of the old cotillion idea of matching partners to get bashful young people acquainted.

In the case of the older men and women, whether it's a thousand dollar or a one dollar party, it's the novel and the quaint, rather than the pretentious, that makes a hit. Don't try to provide amusement for your adult guests every minute of their stay. Leave them alone for a while, after you've arranged something at the beginning which will mix partners.

Finally, for all parties, there is one ingredient aptly described by


AUNT AGATHA, I CAN'T GET JOHN TO EAT A BITE OF BREAKFAST! HE SEEMS TERRIBLY RUN-DOWN!
A HUSBAND WHO WON'T EAT BREAKFAST IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM BUT I HAVE THE ANSWER. JUST WAIT TILL WE GO SHOPPING THIS AFTERNOON!

THAT AFTERNOON
BUT I'VE TRIED CEREALS. JOHN WON'T TOUCH ANY OF THEM!
I'LL BET YOU HAVEN'T TRIED SHREDDED RALSTON, THAT NEW BITE SIZE CEREAL WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL FLAVOR. IT MAKES BREAKFAST SO INTERESTING FOLKS WANT TO EAT...AND MY HUSBAND SAYS WHOLE WHEAT KEEPS HIM FEELING LIKE A MILLION!

I'VE BEEN TELLING MY NIECE HOW MUCH MY HUSBAND LIKES SHREDDED RALSTON!
MY CUSTOMERS SAY IT MAKES A QUICK ENERGY BREAKFAST—JUST WHAT EVERYBODY NEEDS. IT COSTS ONLY A TRIFLE, TOO... ABOUT ½ A SERVING!

LATER
M-M-M! I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE ENJOYED ANYTHING LIKE I HAVE SHREDDED RALSTON. IT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO GIVE ME A MORNING APPETITE AND KEEP ME FEELING FIT!
YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT, DEAR! I WISH AUNT AGATHA HAD TOLD ME ABOUT SHREDDED RALSTON SOONER!

Shredded Ralston
Whole Wheat
Ready to Eat
Shredded Ralston
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Morning Appetite Tempter!
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Make sure, though, your cookies are made with pure New Orleans molasses—Brer Rabbit. Made from freshly crushed Louisiana sugar cane, Brer Rabbit Molasses has that real, old-plantation flavor!

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one six-year-old to her mother after one of Miss Kuh's famous children's parties. "Everything was so nice," she said, "because it was all the same, and yet everything was different."

What the six-year-old sensed is the central idea which Beulah Kuh says must underlie every party, whether for grown-ups or for children. "Around this central idea," she says, "you build your games, your favors, your table decorations, and even your food. Everything must hang together, but nothing must be monotonous."

As many a sad-eyed debutante has found out too late, it is still possible to spend $5000 on a party and run up a record of having the outstanding dud of the season. Having established that point firmly in your mind, here is one last warning: if an occasion is looming up in your life that calls for a celebration, whether it be a husband's birthday or "the crowd's" monthly bridge party, try locking up your bank account, and opening up your idea-fund—and see what happens!

Party tables shown on pages 23 and 35

THE two party tables that were done especially for us are not at all difficult, now that you see how a good party mind works. The Christmas one looks almost like a present itself, wrapped in white paper with silver snowflakes printed on it and tied with wide bands of red Cellophane. The huge red candles and all the other party trimmings of red and some Christmas greens just add to the general festivity.

Big balloons will stand upright along the center of your table by the simple device of attaching them to slender sticks of different lengths. The long shaggy plumes of paper on the horns and the old oil lanterns are things that children would all love, as well as the huge wagonload of gay presents tucked in a mass of crepe paper hay and drawn by two spanking plush Percherons.

Our frontispiece

[Illustrated on page 16]

THE painting on page 16 illustrates an old Italian counterpart of our Christmas tree. The inspiration is a 17th century Florentine decoration, with wonderfully carved, gilded candlesticks climbing up the three poles that hold a crèche with figures beautifully modeled and exquisitely costumed. We have made one that is the exact reproduction of the original and wound the three poles (they can be old broom or mop handles) with red and white paper, nailed little tart pans firmly to them and put the candles in those. We even have the compote piled high with cucidati (recipe on page 49), and confections and fruits of every sort, and a lovely crèche under its thatched roof. The three-tiered triangle makes a perfect place for all manner of gay small packages, candy canes and other sweets. Each shelf is festooned with ribbons and bows and on the very top is a golden pine cone (achieved with radiator paint) in the approved Florentine manner.

Are you forever cleaning windows?

Do your windows seem to get dirty almost as soon as they're cleaned? Then you ought to try Bon Ami *Cake*. You'll find it leaves no oily film to catch dirt. Instead, it *polishes the glass* so it's sparkling and crystal-clear. It's easy to use. Just rub it on—then wipe it off while still damp. And Bon Ami *Cake* is economical, too—you'll be surprised how long one cake lasts!

For safety's sake use Bon Ami *Cake* to clean your windshield where clear vision is so important to safe driving.

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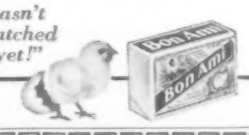
leaves no oily film.. polishes as it cleans

"hasn't scratched yet!"



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It's just not Christmas without children

[Continued from page 13]

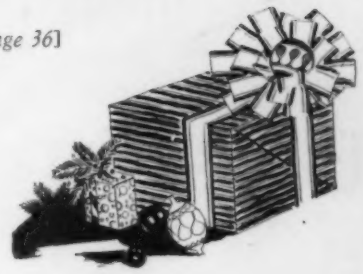
But that is where these people are wrong. Christmas can never be over for them because it never arrived in the first place—not in its true sense. And one can't possibly lose a thing which one has never had. They are talking about two entirely different things when they say that "Christmas has become commercialized" and that the Christmas spirit is "nothing but foolish sentiment." For the stores and shops, advertising products that are suitable for Christmas gifts *is* commercial, which is a business matter; while the Christmas atmosphere and spirit, the loving and giving which prevail in millions of hearts all over the country are far from commercial . . . and are an entirely personal matter. Christmas on a "cash" basis can never be successful or happy since money has very little connection with beauty, and none with spirit.

Somehow we always associate Dickens with Christmas; probably because he loved the season and gave so much of himself at that time. His friends were from all walks of life. His gifts went to rich and poor, to prisons and tenements, to countryside and city. He set a splendid example for us. To him, Christmas was not only a holiday but a time for loving and giving, for thinking of others, for brotherliness—"the only time when men and women have but one feeling—to open their shut-up hearts."

Christmas is an oasis of peace in the midst of turmoil—a beautiful heritage handed down through the centuries, enriching the lives of each generation as they pass it on to the next like an infinite, flaming torch. It is concerned only with the simplest things in the world: sincerity . . . love . . . faith. . . . SHARING!

Christmas—and our state flower prints

[*Illustrated on page 36*]



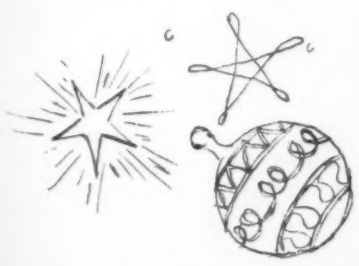
MOUNT flower prints on square white lace paper doilies (5¢ for about nine), held up by perky ribbon bows. Or cut out the flower outline and mount it on a round lace paper doily. Give a group of three or more. Delightful for a child's room because they can be changed every month.

Wastepaper baskets most certainly are useful! Any woman should appreciate one decorated with an attractive flower print. It's more than a 20¢ basket as it's done here.

You can make a wall plaque by putting a flower print face down in a shallow glass baking dish and covering it with plaster of Paris mixed to a smooth paste consistency. Insert hanging device. Allow a day or two for it to dry thoroughly, and the plaque will come out easily.

Another very effectively mounted and framed flower print, lovely enough for the most fastidious, is a blue gingham mat plus a blue and white checked gingham frame. Done as a series in pale green, pink, and blue, they would be absolutely charming.

You can buy an ordinary tin tray for about a dime, dress it up in a flower print, and it's ready



to go to the nicest party. Ours was painted deep yellow, and we put three gold paper stickers on each side of the sunflower print in the center. A coat of shellac makes it practical.

Buy a plain transparent hat box, cover the top with wallpaper, mount a flower print on it. Give both this and the hangers for a dainty closet ensemble. Ours was done in pale yellows.

Make a book box out of cardboard. Cover it with colored paper (that wallpaper remnant will do), mount a flower print. In ours we put Margaret McKenny's "A Book of Wild Flowers" illustrated by Edith F. Johnston, who also did The American Home flower print.

For less than a dollar you can get a miniature metal cabinet with three drawers. Mount a flower print on top, label the drawers for annuals, perennials, and vegetable seeds, and give it to the garden enthusiast on your list. The metal cabinet keeps the mice out (they adore *good* flower seeds) and keeps one organized.

The lady who knits will appreciate this neat box. We used a Quaker Oats box, but any cardboard carton will do. Cover it with wallpaper, decorate with flower print, and use heavy cotton or cable cord for a handle.

A de luxe portfolio can be made of heavy cardboard hinged with linen tape, padded, and covered with chintz. Shirred ribbon around the inset frames the flower print. We used plain green chintz and green satin ribbon, with the

delicate New York state Rose print. Elegant too for enclosing that first copy of a magazine (you know which one we mean!) if you're giving her a subscription for Christmas.

A very dainty picture can be made by mounting a flower print on a lace paper doily, putting it between two pieces of glass held together by gummed tape. Silver passe partout makes the frame. An idea that could be carried out beautifully for place mats.

But now it's your turn. We "whipped" these up without much trouble, certainly little time, for we were all head over heels in this Christmas issue. But with time on your hands, there's no end to the dainty things you can think of to make.

Working off too much Christmas dinner

[*Continued from page 54*]

DID YOU EVER PLAY THIS IS MY NOSE? It's simple but it's lots of fun and completely suitable for a gathering of this kind. A leader stands in front of the first player and points to one part of his body while naming another. For instance, he might say, "This is my nose," and point to his foot. The player must reverse it by saying, "This is my foot," while pointing to his nose. If he succeeds before the leader can count to 10, he becomes the new leader and stands in front of the next player. Otherwise the original leader progresses from player to player around the circle.

OBSERVATION is good fun, too. Have the guests go to another room and walk around a table on which a number of miscellaneous objects have been placed. Then they return to the living room and list everything they can remember seeing on the table.

WITH CARDS: A deck of playing cards and a man's hat will take care of two contests. For Card Toss each player in turn is given 25 cards which he tries to toss into the inverted hat on the floor some eight feet ahead of him. For Card Scaling, the players have 3 cards and the winner is the one who can throw a card the greatest distance.

GET IN SOME REAL ACTION NOW! Choose teams for a game of Balloon Volley Ball. A string is stretched across the room with a team on each side. The balloon is batted with the hands and the object of each team is to keep it off the floor on their side. When it touches the floor, it counts one for the other team. The game ends at 10.

A PRIZE FOR PEELING NICE ROSY APPLES: By this time the turkey dinner *may* be far enough in the background for your guests to enjoy some nice rosy apples. Give one to each persons, provide them with fruit knives, and award a prize to the one who can cut the longest continuous peel.

As long as the entertainment schedule is kept well in hand and not allowed to interfere with the leisurely exchange of family news and the re-establishment of family intimacies, it will help to make the occasion an unusually happy one. So take a little time out from the baking of pies and the making of turkey stuffing, choose the games you like best, and plan some fun for the family reunion.

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INDERA MILLS CO., Winston-Salem, N. C.

Make your decorations

[Illustrated on pages 18-22 and 351]

ELLEN SHERIDAN

EACH year the Christmas decorations displayed by the shops for use in our homes grow more gorgeous, varied and alluring. True, it is a big saving of time and energy to take advantage of these opportunities in well-stocked shops, but coming as I did from a home where the entire family combined its efforts and talents at holiday decorating, the decorations in the shops have little meaning for me.

Well do I remember the pride I had as a small child in my strings of cranberries, popcorn, and paper chains; all my small fingers were able to do. While my elders made fascinating and wondrous things, I secretly felt it was my work that really made the tree a thing of beauty. In truth, it was beautiful to *everyone* because of that contribution each made to it with his own hands.

These days as never before, we have materials at hand which lend themselves readily to use by child and grownup. Pictured on pages 18 to 22 are a few of the products of these materials.

For instance, there is the gold corrugated paper wreath shown on page 18. To make this, cut the corrugated paper in two inch squares and shape like leaves. (The children will be useful at this point as you will need several dozens of them.) Fasten these leaves with Scotch tape to a one and one-half inch wide cardboard circle. Should you want the Regency touch so popular these days cut away four inches at the top. Put a Venetian paper silver bow at the bottom.

The cherub children, fastened to the wreath with long strips of Scotch tape, have table croquet balls cut in half for heads. Split a small dowel lengthwise for necks. Add silver paper wings and white corrugated paper waists. Paint truly cherubic expressions on pink little faces and you will find heaven itself on your own wall. By using double adhesive tape purchased in the closet shop section of any large store you will be able to fasten your wreath to the wall without leaving a sign of a mark.

Great Uncle Peter had to come down from his place of honor above the mantel to make room for the very human little girl angels on parade, shown on page 20. The baby angel tagging along behind her bigger sisters is the smallest size of tin funnel. Her sisters' dresses are funnels of larger sizes, colored powder blue. All the children have square legs with painted white long stockings and blue shoes. Their legs are first nailed to a tin disk and the disk then soldered to the inside of the funnel. Tiny tin spoon hands carry white candles. The button-mold collars and hair ribbons are white. Again that indispensable Scotch tape holds the silver-paper wings to the body.

Tin pie plates of varying sizes soldered to a tin trunk and then fastened to a square tin baking pan make a tree that surprises even the angels. Acting as a frame and going the full width of the mantel is a della Robbia swag of gold corrugated paper. This time the leaves are cut larger but fastened in the same way.

Another idea to be used above the fireplace is the large angel surrounded by her adoring cherubs. See page 20. She is cut from heavy cardboard. One-half a wooden ball is glued to the cardboard; then her neck and finally her dress of white corrugated paper, trimmed in true Parisian style with the edges of round doilies painted gold, are added. Just before she takes her place to preside over your hearth, glue some silver wings on the cardboard frame.

Even a cooky tree cannot be expected to escape the Victorian influence this season. The one illustrated on page 35 is made of three circles of three-ply. Holes the size of the trunk are drilled in the center of each circle. The trunk is then nailed to the square wooden block, and the whole tree painted white. The trim is an embroidered edging, like old-fashioned pantie ruffles, pleated and pasted around each circle. Then run red ribbon through some beading and glue it over the pleating. Do the same for the base and your tree is ready to show off the cookies. If you make a matching table cloth, with a wider edging, you can't help but be pleased with the whole ensemble.

Popcorn masquerades as old St. Nick at our house! (See page 22.) Santa's ample stomach is a rice ball filled with popcorn, easily unclipped to retrieve a generous handful. Two strainers soldered together make his head, and his funnel hat is topped off with a bottle sprinkler set at a jolly angle. His hands are spoons and his collar, cuffs, belt, and beard are of tin. He will stand sturdily in place because the funnel legs soldered to a small pie tin make him steady on his feet.

If you would like your popcorn just a bit more accessible there is the Santa Claus who carries it in his tin strainer pack on his back. This merry gentleman is made of coarse wire netting stiffened by soldering wire around the

[Please turn to page 79]

NAME IT...AND I'LL STICK IT!

New kind of cement holds to all surfaces!

● **Housewives, handy-men, secretaries, teachers—*everybody* has a use for this amazing new adhesive that sticks to *any* material. Fastens wood, cloth, paper, leather—to glass, plastics, metal, plaster, etc. Contains shock-proof liquid rubber and lifetime-strength *casein,* basic ingredient of heat- and moisture-resistant CASCO Powdered Casein Glue.**

Clean to use. Excess CASCO cement rolls easily from hands and materials.

Large tube, 25c at hardware stores.

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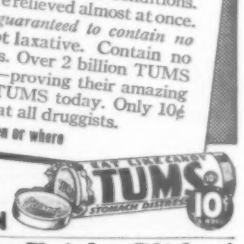

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. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Any Old Stockings, Lady?

[*Illustrated on page 45*]

CATHRYN H. FOLLMAN

TO MAKE an article of genuine usefulness from worthless castaways, to impart new and enduring beauty where loveliness has vanished is a challenge to inventiveness. Others had answered that challenge; why not I? My decorative leanings were distinctly Colonial, and it naturally followed that I should plan to fit into the picture one or more hooked rugs of good design and workmanship. It then occurred to me that I could make my own rugs and after several weeks of planning I conceived the idea of making them out of old silk stockings! Stockings have been braided, crocheted, and knit into rugs, but as far as I know, never have been used in making the attractive hooked variety.

It is an established fact that silk represents our strongest known textile. Also, while I use the term "old silk stockings," actually stockings are discarded after an average wear of but two weeks. This means that the part of the stocking which has not been subject to hard wear and which, therefore, remains intact after that short period, represents really new and alive material which possesses considerable tensile strength even when cut into strips for fashioning into rugs. Again, the chain-stitch weave of the stocking imparts to the fabric a resiliency or springiness which makes of it a particularly desirable rug "yarn."

So frequently have I been asked "Just how do you go about making such a rug?" that I will try to describe every step in the work.

THE DESIGN: There are numerous stamped burlap pieces offered in the art needlework departments of our local stores, but because I wished this to be as much my own creative work as possible, I set about designing an original rug pleasing for use in any room in the home, which would utilize the entire gamut of stocking shades. I decided at once to adhere to the typical blocks or squares found in the average hooked rug of Colonial design. My square, however, is an optical one only, as it measures 10″ wide by 11″ long. My own reaction to a true square is that it appears squat or shorter in height than in width and rather tiresome to the eye. Therefore, my 10″ x 11″ "square" gets away from this too symmetrical appearance and is more artistic and satisfying.

From the numerous designs which I worked out in the rough, I finally decided on two designs to be used alternately in the rug. One, a five-petal flower with stem and two leaves and the other a large conventional flower consisting of four broad petals. For ease of handling, I decided to make my rug in units of six "squares" each, two across and three deep, making the unit measurement 20″ x 33″, with 1½″ of plain burlap left on all four sides for joining the units together, and for turn-in to finish the edges.

Making the rug in units also offers the opportunity of assembling the rug in any desired size or shape as the units are completed and from time to time as the need arises—as hall runners, scatter rugs, or a room size rug.

Next I accurately drew the design to correct size on firm cardboard and then trimmed the blank cardboard away from the design. I purchased the necessary light tan burlap in the upholstery department of a local store, and after measuring off six "squares" for the first unit, I placed the cardboard designs in proper position for good balance within each square and with a lead pencil traced around the cardboard design. This cardboard design can be used over and over as each

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AN APOLOGY: By an inexplicable error, for which we are deeply sorry, the splendid color photographs of Mr. Thomas Church's home on page 16 of the November AMERICAN HOME were attributed to Mr. Roger Sturtevant, instead of to Mr. Tirey L. Ford, of San Francisco, who made them expressly for us.

I just heard something *nice* about you.

That's fine, Billy. Can you tell me what it was?

Sure! Gran'ma said she isn't lonely any more, now that she has a telephone in her house.

Well isn't that just splendid?

Yes'm. And Mummie said a telephone's just about the most useful thing anybody can have 'cause it runs so many errands and everything.

Yes, a lot of people feel that same way about it, Billy.

Guess that's right. My Daddy says telephone service is better today than ever before. . . . And cheap, too.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Be wise, take Alka-Seltzer
WE'RE HAPPIER EACH TIME WE GIVE, IF WE JUST STOP TO HEED IT.
LIKE ALKA-SELTZER, GIVING BRINGS RELIEF TO THOSE WHO NEED IT.
WHEN UPSET STOMACH, HEADACHE, COLDS, RETARDS OUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
WE TAKE AN ALKA-SELTZER, THEN THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR STOPPING.
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in millions of homes for the relief of Headache, Acid Indigestion, Muscular Fatigue, Muscular aches and pains and Cold symptoms.
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AT ALL DRUGGISTS
AT ALL DRUG STORES BY THE PACKAGE OR GLASS
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ARMSTRONG IRONERS

one of the units is "stamped."

To make the units exactly alike and yet have the two designs properly alternate throughout the rug both horizontally and vertically, regardless of how many units were finally joined together, I turned upside down every other dark design (the five-petal flower with stem and leaves). In addition, the diagonal rows of the dark design would be made up of one flower pointed up, one flower pointed down, one up, one down, etc. The light design being a symmetrical conventional flower, is readily reversible—it does not have a top or a bottom.

THE STOCKING COLLECTION: To plan my designs in color, I had to have some idea of the range of shades and the proportions of each shade. Accordingly, I made a list of women relatives, friends, business acquaintances and neighbors and set about asking for contributions of old stockings. My collection grew rapidly as relatives and friends alike became interested and lent hearty coöperation. Without further solicitation on my part, repeat offerings continue to pour in from various sources, and to date my inventory keeps well in advance of production.

In some instances stockings are handed to me with apologies for their badly worn state. Then, too, I rather suspect that some stockings reach me before they have lived full lives, their normal demise being hastened through dislike of offering stockings that are badly worn. In either case, I give quick assurance that I can use stockings in even their very last stages of decline, with heels and knees out, toes gone, and with wide, wide runners, explaining that the worst stocking in my collection will yield four or five strips 1" in width and two feet or so in length of good material. My strips are cut from the top of the stocking down to the foot, and in this way any and all runners are discarded; also, the heavier foot section where most wear occurs is not used.

As each consignment of stockings arrives, quick appraisal is made. If there are included any of the highly desirable absolute shades for "painting on" the designs, I literally gloat over my grand hoard. For me stockings have taken on a new significance—they now represent potential hooked rugs.

THE COLOR PLAN: After I had gathered in some 200 pairs of stockings, I sorted them, with benefit of north light, into shade groups to get some idea of the proportions of each group. A study of the different shades convinced me that there was a sufficient range of shades to enable me to develop my two designs pleasingly and effectively in natural stocking shades, without resorting to dyeing. A further study of my collection also disclosed that tans and browns were in the majority by far, with but a few absolute grays. Therefore, the rug would have to be developed for the most part in all the shades of tan and brown from ivory, Airedale, soft tan, bright carrot, through all the medium dark shades to a very dark brown. There are just three shades of gray in my collection—a very light absolute steel, a sand taupe, and a gun metal, and all three grays have been incorporated in my rug.

Having limited myself to natural stocking shades, I realized that in order to snap up the design and achieve a desirable brightness, I would have to resort to strong contrasts. Therefore, I planned to develop the flower with the stem and leaves (which I call my dark design) in tête de négre brown with centers, shadings and leaf veins in ivory. The fill-in or background to complete this dark design square makes use of variegated light tan shades, worked in vertical rows.

The second design consisting of the conventional four-petal flower, and which I call my light design, I planned to develop in the bright carrot shade worked solid for 1" around the outer rim of the petals, with the center using the sand taupe, an off shade which contrasts sharply with the bright carrot shade. Also worked in bright carrot on the solid sand taupe center are four large round dots 1" in diameter, one for each petal. The fill-in or background to complete this light design square makes use of variegated medium dark shades, worked in horizontal rows. To sum up this color plan, we have a dark design with light vertical fill-in, contrasting with a light design with dark horizontal fill-in.

In working my first light design, I found that while there was considerable contrast between the outer rim of bright carrot shade and the variegated dark fill-in, the square lacked a certain snap or line of demarcation between the design and the fill-in. So it was at this point that I decided to utilize the absolute light steel gray stockings in my collection by running one row of this shade around the outer rim of the bright carrot to separate the conventional flower from the fill-in or background. This addition lent considerable character to the light design. The third gray shade, gun metal, is used to "frame" each square, a single row serving to separate quite definitely one square from the other.

[*Please turn to page 71*]

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The Menu Maker is a metal box, measuring 12 x 5½ x 3¾ inches. It is equipped with a catalin handle trimmed with duralumin, and with transparent Cellophane envelopes in which each new recipe may be placed and kept clean and readable at all times. There is also a complete set of index cards covering the entire range of dishes from appetizers to desserts, behind which all recipes may be filed and classified.

The box may be had in any one of five colors so as to harmonize with the color scheme of any kitchen. They are white, yellow, blue, green, and red.

Send a Menu Maker to your very best friend and see how pleased she will be.

212 Basic Recipes

The American Home Testing Kitchen has just finished going over all of the recipes that have ever been published in The AMERICAN HOME. Each has been retested for accuracy, simplicity and delicious flavor. 212 basic recipes have been selected, illustrated, and reprinted for use in the Menu Maker. They are assembled in brochure form and may be had for the nominal price of only 50¢.

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Gifts for Those With

Have you friends who make a hobby of their home? Who have gardens or are always planning them? Who are clever at interior decoration? Or who are always drawing plans of a home they want to build sometime?

The editors of The AMERICAN HOME have prepared five big books that are full of useful information and clever ideas for such friends. They give detailed instructions for everything that is suggested, and are crowded with diagrams and illustrations, many of which are in full colors.

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There are hundreds of smart suggestions in The Book of SMART INTERIORS for the woman who wants to redecorate her home.

It deals with every room in the house in a practical, inexpensive way. It tells how to fix up a special room for the men folks, how to decorate the room the children occupy.

It shows efficient arrangements for kitchens and how to make bathrooms modern. It takes living rooms and bedrooms and shows how to rearrange furniture more attractively. It gives suggestions for harmonious color schemes and tells what hangings fit in best with each particular setting. It helps with the selection of wallpapers and pictures.

This latest Book of SMART INTERIORS is a storehouse of clever and useful information. Though it is modern, it will never grow old. Your friend will use it day in and day out for years to come. It is one of those foundation books every home must have.

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Making and Equipment 60c
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Both Books for Only $1.40

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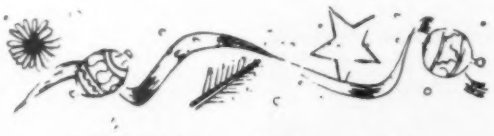
Something new and jolly for your table centerpiece

[*Illustrated on page 27*]

MR. EGGPLANT must, of course, be selected for his rotund, healthy shape. His eyes are pieces of carrot with a raisin in the center and are attached with a pin. After a little experimenting you'll find you can vary his expression by changing the shape of the carrot or the angle of it. His nose is one rosy cranberry. His mouth is a piece of green pepper cut in crescent shape. For the arms select string beans slightly curved to hold the reins. Each leg is made of two pods of peas. The buttons on his "front" are horizontal slices of cranberry. Common pins are used to attach all decorations and appendages. The man's jaunty hat is the top of a green pepper. In determining the "front" of the eggplant, look at the green calyx at the top—it sometimes is separated in such a way as to look like an old-fashioned middle hair part. If such is the case, the hat can be placed at just the right angle on this part.

Mr. Eggplant sits forward on the pumpkin and is secured by three strong toothpicks, one end of each inserted in the pumpkin and the other end in him. The wheels of the cart are four lemons, turned with the pointed end out to suggest a hub, and secured to the pumpkin by means of a toothpick in each. Around the back of the cart are placed varicolored cocktail picks to represent the slats of the cart and to hold the assorted fruit which goes on top. The turkeys come from any store selling party favors, the reins are narrow yellow ribbon. The yellow harness is secured to the front of each turkey with a small piece of Scotch cellulose tape.

—MARION M. MAYER



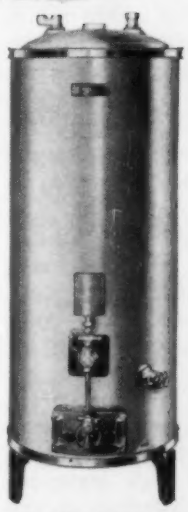
Any old stockings, lady?

[*Continued from page 72*]

PRODUCTION OR HOOKING: The hook which I use resembles an over-size crochet hook, made of steel and set in a handle of wood which comfortably fits into the palm of the hand. I purchased this hook in an art needlework store for twenty-five cents. A little dexterity of the wrist is required to pull the rather large hook up through the small mesh to complete a loop, but this knack can be acquired easily with practice. I use a small wooden frame for the work, purchased from a ten-cent store for fifteen cents. This frame I had cut down from its original oblong size to a 12" square, as I found this size more convenient to hold on my lap. The burlap is stretched taut over the frame, design up, and held in position by means of long-pronged thumb tacks, sold at the same counter with the frames. As the work progresses it is moved on the frame.

I first work in the designs and then do the fill-in. Starting with the light design, I select from my stocking supply about three very dark brown stockings and one of light ivory. These I cut into strips almost 1" in width, cutting the strips from the top down to the foot. I first "lay on" the light ivory center of the flower and the shading toward the outer edge of each petal—the shading consists of just a single slightly curved row of loops, about seven or eight of them in all. Also the center vein in each of the two leaves is worked in a single row of ivory.

With the left hand I hold a stocking strip underneath the work, and with the right hand insert the hook from the top through a mesh in the burlap, pick up the stocking strip and pull it through the mesh, leaving this starting end about ¾" long extending on the right side. I then insert the hook into the next mesh, pick up the stocking strip and pull a loop up through the mesh to a height of about ⅜". The hook is then released from the loop, inserted through the next mesh to pick up the stocking strip, which is again pulled up through the mesh to form another loop, and so on. By practice and experience the height of the loop can be gauged quite accurately so that the finished work will be very even. The loops should be placed close together to make a dense "pile" which will stand up under hard wear. In the fill-in, which you will remember is done in even horizontal and vertical rows, I pull a loop through al-



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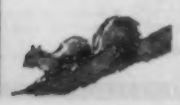

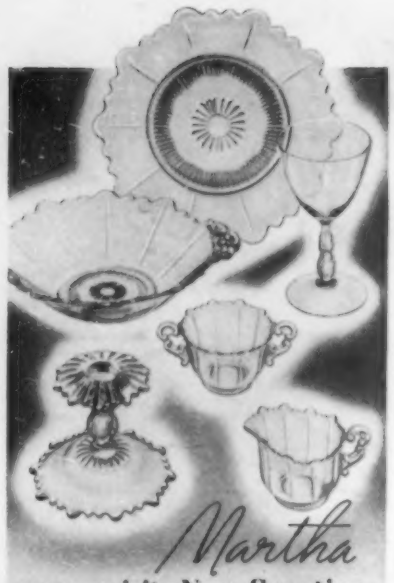

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most every mesh in a row, occasionally skipping one mesh when the loops appear crowded, and I leave two rows of mesh or three burlap threads in between each row. This will give some idea of how closely the loops should be placed in working the designs which are not done in even rows as is the fill-in, but follow the contour of the design itself to get the most pleasing effect and strike a still further note of contrast between design and fill-in.

When the end of a stocking strip is reached, this end is pulled up through the mesh to the top or right side of the rug where, after a number of such ends have accumulated, it can be trimmed down to the height of the loops and where it will remain safely locked in position by the very denseness of the loops. The loops themselves are not cut.

After all the designs are worked, I put the single row of very dark gun metal around the outer edge of each square and then proceed with the fill-in as already described as to shades, horizontal and vertical rows, and closeness of work to secure the desired density of loops. This closeness of work is determined by the width of the stocking strip used. Generally speaking, there should be very little burlap left visible on the back of the rug. I estimate that from forty to fifty pairs of silk chiffon stockings are needed for one unit measuring 20" x 33", depending upon the condition of the stockings and the number of good strips to be gleaned from each stocking.

After each unit is completed, I place it right side down on a soft rug on the floor in an out-of-the-way corner, and with a very wet pressing cloth spread over the back of the unit, apply a hot iron. I hold the hot iron on the wet cloth just long enough to send hot steam through the fibers of the burlap, and then leave the unit to dry undisturbed in this flat position for about twenty-four hours. This pressing flattens the rug and also equalizes any slight variation in loop length, making the top surface of the work even and uniform.

I am very enthusiastic about the design and coloring of my rug, and I am satisfied that the stocking strip "yarn" is remarkably durable, yet soft enough to give the feel of Oriental wool under foot. My hooked rug has developed into a real hobby. There is no particular urge to complete a certain number of units in any given time, as each unit can be put to use when completed by being joined to its brother units, and for that reason the work represents a cozy pick-up job and an excuse to do something with my hands while talking or listening to the radio. With the thought that my rug might some day find a place among the cherished possessions of the younger loved ones in my family, I shall sew to the back of the rug a sturdy linen label, showing the name of the designer and maker (I'm bowing) with a list of the good contributors of stockings. And, further, these names are to be original autographs, traced over with India ink for permanency. A veritable story, brief though eloquent, for the edification of posterity!

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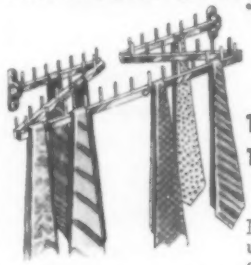

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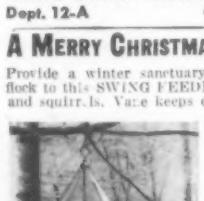

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We build a doll's cradle

[*Continued from page 55*]

The chest is constructed entirely of plywood, the base being three eighths of an inch thick and the balance of the material one quarter inch. The four sides should overlap the base. The actual building is simple providing care is taken in following measurements, making sure that cuts are straight. The following pieces are required in the construction of the trunk proper:

1 base, ⅜" plywood, 10x17
2 sides, ¼" plywood, 7x17½
2 ends, ¼" plywood, 10x7
2 pieces for top (1 front, 1 back) ¼" plywood, 1x17½
2 end pieces for top, 10x3 at the highest point of the arc, the arc to taper to an inch.
Approximately 10 strips 1x17½ to form top.

My husband informs me that the only point where undue care should be taken is in the assembly of the top. Since it is next to impossible to bend a piece of wood to this arc without proper steaming, a more workmanlike job can be obtained by fabricating the entire curve. The pieces measuring 1x17½ should be beveled on the underside to take up the difference between the outside and the inside arc. To obtain strength, two insets similar to the end pieces should be equally spaced over the total width.

The tray has overall dimensions of 16¾x9⅞ and can be divided into any number of compartments you may decide upon. We have found it a distinct advantage to have a cover on one of these small compartments to keep small trinkets in place. The end pieces of the tray should have a slotted handle projecting about 1¼ inches above the sides to facilitate lifting it out of the trunk. Three small brass hinges were screwed in place, equally spaced to match the braces in the top. The slots for these should be slightly countersunk to insure a tight closing. Two tray rests 10x1 were fastened approximately 1½

inches from the top of the main body of the trunk.

With the construction complete, the piece is ready to fill and sand. We used plastic wood for a filler and imperfections may be filled with this before priming. These will undoubtedly occur on the two ends, because to make the bevels exact would be most difficult. When sanding first remove the high spots at the joints of the three quarter inch pieces and then sand at forty-five degrees to the corners until a nice smooth curve results.

The hardware may be purchased at almost any shop dealing in this type of equipment. It is recommended that brads no larger than #18 by one inch be used. Personally, I wish we had put brass handles on the sides. It's a bit difficult for Sue to manage it as it is.

The chest had two priming coats and we used bright red house paint for the outside and dark green shutter paint for the inside, but it took the addition of a great deal of drier in the shutter paint. Regular tube paints were used on the figures and gilt was used for the lettering and some trim. You can let yourself go here and add any decorations you may choose. After the whole thing had thoroughly dried we gave it a coat of thin lacquer. This should be applied quickly and very lightly, because sometimes it will pull the gilt with it.

Make your decorations

[Continued from page 70]

entire outside. Flatten your funnel hat before putting it on his head. Solder mold shoes to legs.

Remember the fans we used to make of a long narrow strip of paper folded back and forth? The gold and silver tree is as easy as that! Turn to page 19.

To make a tree which stands eighteen inches high before put on the standard, use a piece of wrapping paper forty-eight inches long by eighteen inches wide. Fold this paper back and forth in one inch folds. Cut the lower edge in scallops and paint silver. Now cut gold and silver paper in the shape of spreading V's. For the tree illustrated, these pieces are cut with arms one inch wide, two and three-quarters inches long, at an angle of about 112 degrees. The ends of the arms are cut on a bias so that the inside measurement of each arm is equal to the outside measurement. Fold each V in the center. Starting about three inches from the base of the tree, paste alternating gold and silver V's along the indented folds, 1½ inches above each other.

Make a round wooden base and a twenty-two inch pole for the trunk. The base and exposed part of the trunk should be painted gold. About a third of the distance up from the base fasten on the trunk a disk of ply wood about eight inches in diameter to hold out the lower branches. Or you might find it easier to run stiff wire through the trunk to hold out the paper branches at a realistic angle. Use gold twine to draw the top of the tree together.

If you agree with me that wooden chopping bowls should come out of the kitchen, you will want to make a bowl Christmas tree as shown on page 19. Simply drill holes in the centers of three or more bowls, and slip them over the wooden trunk—grand for holding holiday goodies.

If you find the days slipping by and time at a premium, simplify these ideas. Or better still, use these ideas just as a starting point for your own. For instance, the gold corrugated wreath is very lovely without the cherubs. A bunch of silver grapes could be used in place of the bow. The little blue funnel angels could be made of cone-shaped paper, with artificial snowballs for heads. A three-ply or one-half inch wooden Santa Claus could replace the wire netting one, though he should retain his strainer pack. And so on through the list of holiday decorations—simplify if you like, but do make some!

Small gifts—cleverly "done up"

[Continued from page 14]

I have mentioned these ideas not only because they are economical and might serve as suggestions to the readers of THE AMERICAN HOME but also because, if you stop to think about it, it's often the packaging that really makes the gift. So many times you need a gift that can't be bought, that has to be something with a little bit of yourself thrown in.

While I think of it, there isn't a nicer gift than a package of wrappings with matching ribbon, stickers, cards, silver bells, and things for next Christmas. You can spend as much or as little as you like.

When wrapping gifts for little children I generally decorate the toy itself with just a ribbon bow and a tag. For older children I often tie little gifts on the outside of the package, such as whistles, balloons, or small animals.

I keep a list from year to year of not only the people I give presents to but what I have given them and the price. Then I check it as I wrap the packages. This keeps me from overbuying for one and not having enough for another.

THREE-LAYER CANDY BOX is three gifts in one. Stacked sections, and lid that fits all three, finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $3.00.

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JUBILEE JAM JAR of clear narrow-ribbed glass with spoon and chromium-finished cover and saucer is a sparkling, useful gift. Jar, 4" high; saucer, 6" in diameter. Only $2.50.

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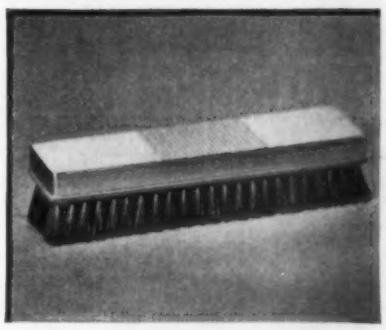

CHASE CLOTHES BRUSH for a man who likes brushes that *brush*. Black bristles are well set in walnut; top is finished in polished chromium, golden-color brass or English bronze. $1.00.

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FOLDING TRIPLE TRAY lets her serve quantities of canapes, sandwiches, cakes, easily and proudly. Folds flat and slips into drawer when not in use. Gleaming chromium finish or copper, smartly embossed. $5.00.

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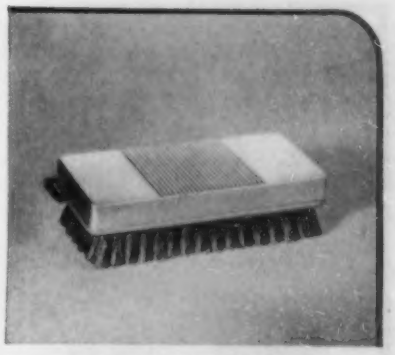

BRUSH AND COMB for traveler's bag or any man's dresser. Comb slips neatly into brush handle. Finished in polished golden-color brass, polished chromium or English bronze, with black bristles. Set, $1.50.

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DORIS HUDSON MOSS

THANKSGIVING DAY is pretty much our own holiday and in this hurried age there is a homespun honesty when millions of thankful families bow their heads in grace before meat upon Thanksgiving Day.

There are as many types of Thanksgiving feasts as there are family traditions. Whether yours is "over the river and through the wood to grandmother's house" or a smart dinner served in formal sophisticated fashion — whatever the type of your Thanksgiving, it is born of tradition and is best fed upon early Americanism. It's a wise woman who emphasizes in her home the value and beauty of national inheritance.

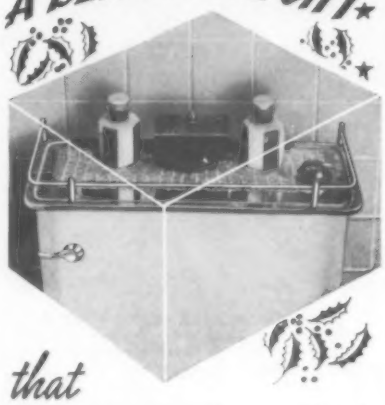
My own family likes the New England Thanksgiving; simple, bountiful, warm with affection. Can there be a sweeter hour than that which precedes the dinner? The mouth-watering fragrance of the browning turkey, the whipping of potatoes to a feathery lightness, the almost dramatic unmolding of the beautiful cranberry jelly, the fluted pies in a row ready for cutting, while the children hover about, a bit smug in the memory of having given a bit of their bounty to a family less fortunate. The table is spread with best damask and set with the most treasured old china and silver; a sort of garnering of material tradition for this day of retrospect. Before dinner the pets are all fed with extra care their own Thanksgiving feast.

Not every Thanksgiving dinner need be built around a turkey, by any means. For a small family a chicken, a little roast, or even a delicious meat loaf will suffice. It's the "fixin's" and the spirit that make the feast. There never will be a better time for using one's very best linen, silver, and china. Garnishing will turn even a simple dish into a pretty picture and Thanksgiving dinner should be as beautiful as possible. Listed below are suggestions for several Thanksgiving dinners.

For a Very Small Family

Rosy cheeked pear salad with honey French dressing
Crisp buttered crackers
Small roast chicken, sage dressing, giblet gravy
Whipped potatoes
Canned cranberry jelly
Whole kernel corn with minced pimientos, sautéd in butter
Hot biscuits or poppy seed rolls
Pumpkin pie with ginger flavored whipped cream
Coffee Mints

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT



that Banishes Bathroom Bother

No more bathroom clutter of toilet articles, cosmetics; jars or bottles falling and breaking; for the lucky person who gets *this* Christmas gift.

Unique type of tank cover—flat-topped, protecting rail, finished in beautiful chromium. Easy to put on yourself. An extra shelf that takes no extra room.

Give it to others—and to *yourself*, replacing your old china covers. SCOVILL, the only shelf-cover.

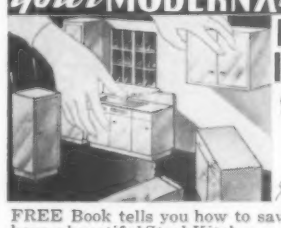
Only $4.20 for tanks 20¼" x 8"; $5.20 for tanks 23⅞" x 8¼".

BUY FROM YOUR PLUMBER

If he can't supply you, send his name, and we'll mail you one C. O. D. Money back guarantee. Free folder on request. Dept. F, Scovill Manufacturing Company, Waterville, Connecticut.

MASTERS OF BRASS — SCOVILL

Your MODERN *Kitchen*



PLAN *and* INSTALL *it yourself.*

FREE Book tells you how to save money and have a beautiful Steel Kitchen . . . long-lasting, quiet, and sanitary! 93 cabinet sizes . . . fit any space. Ask about our Kitchen Planning Service.

ELGIN STOVE & OVEN COMPANY
659 North State Street, Elgin, Illinois

Elgin STEEL KITCHENS

Get greater ENJOYMENT FROM YOUR FIREPLACE *with these modern* FIRE DOGS

Make Logs Burn Better—Simplify Laying and Care of Fire

● Modernize your fireplace with a pair of Canton "Certified" Malleable Fire Dogs! They improve appearance—protect your andirons—make fireplace easier to clean—keep logs from rolling—and, above all, insure a better, more enjoyable fire because draft is increased.

Come 18" long. Fit any andiron, any fireplace. Stand behind andirons, straddling bar. Canton Fire Dogs are unbreakable, guaranteed forever. *Ideal as gifts.*

Prompt delivery on all orders. Send check or money order NOW, to: Box I.

Only $4.50 Per Pair Delivered
($5.00 west of Mississippi River)
Money Back If Not Satisfied

THE CANTON MALLEABLE IRON CO.
ESTABLISHED 1892 • CANTON, OHIO

Decoration—red apples in a ring on autumn leaves, center filled with heaped up nuts. Brown and pale green candles stuck in red apples on more autumn leaves.

Elaborate Dinner for a Large Family

Semi-frozen clam juice cocktail with lemon juice
Canapés
Clear tomato and beef bouillon with avocado slices
Warm melba toast
Individual spinach rings filled with creamed canned mushrooms
Tiny hot rolls
Roast turkey, celery, and sage dressing, giblet gravy
Whipped potatoes
Halved acorn squashes, baked with butter
Cranberry jelly Crisp celery
More tiny hot rolls
Mixed greens salad, fresh grated Parmesan cheese added to French dressing
Warm melba toast
Frozen Nesselrode pudding
Salted almonds
Black coffee Crème de menthe
Decoration—a wreath of violets and red roses around a fruit arrangement centered with a fresh pineapple; turquoise cloth, ivory candles.

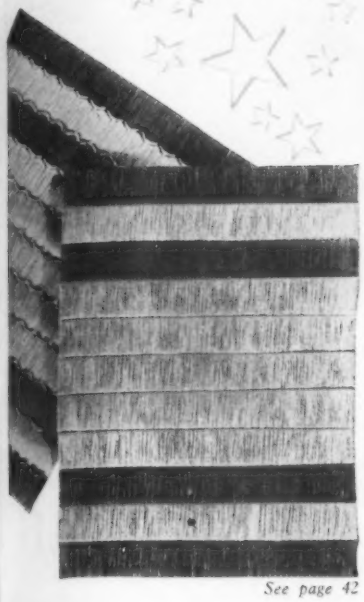
A Lovely Dinner for the Average American Home

(*Illustrated on page 28*)

Canned consommé with lemon slices
Crisp crackers
Roast turkey, sage and celery dressing, giblet gravy
Whipped potatoes
Buttered steamed squash garnished with sautéd pineapple rings
Cranberry jelly Hot rolls
Pickled peaches
Loganberry juice sherbet
Blueberry pie (canned or frozen berries)
Roquefort cheese—water thin crackers—coffee
Decoration—old maple leaf and blue inverted thumb print glass on white damask. Green grapes and fresh pineapple in high blue fruit dish, a wreath of yellow marguerites on cloth around fruit.

An Extra Delicious Budget Dinner

Cubed apple and celery salad in red apple cups
Crisp crackers
Veal and pork loaf baked in ring mold, center filled with whipped potatoes
Spanish sauce Crisp celery
Cranberry sauce
Bread and butter
Pumpkin or squash pie
Coffee
Decoration—charming arrangement of scrubbed, oil rubbed vegetables or fruits (to make them shiny) on autumn leaves. White candles stuck into small squash.



See page 42

A few pennies worth of crepe paper

THAT's about all you need to make these place mats! But a colorful set of them makes as nice a gift as anyone on your list could want. The ones shown above have natural centers and outside slats of rust, yellow and brown; some of the other color combinations you may want to try are red, green, and yellow or red, white, and blue.

To make the crepe paper into strong raffia you will need to buy (for about a dime) or make a twister. This is a block of wood with a large hole on one side and two smaller holes on the opposite side. Buy the very best quality crepe paper, cut on the cross grain in strips an inch wide, insert into the larger hole and pull it through the smaller hole of the twister, which just fits into the palm of your left hand. Pull gently, never jerking, until you have yards and yards of raffia. Two thicknesses of cardboard, cut in strips an inch and a half wide and given a foundation covering of inch-wide strips of crepe paper bound diagonally, make the slats.

Now take a strand of the raffia and paste the first few rows to a slat. After those first few rows no paste is required, and must not be used because it would interfere with the lacing. (Use library paste —never mucilage or liquid paste.) Continue winding until the slat is completely covered.

When the desired number of slats have been covered, they are laced together. For this use a tapestry needle threaded with a matching or a contrasting color of raffia. Insert the needle about two inches from the top of a slat, draw through under the winding, bring out at the top corner and across to the next slat to form a hinge. The entire lengths are then laced and the ends fastened under the winding. A coat of white shellac or a similar solution makes the place mats ready for everyday use.—ELSA VOGT.

See page 43

Or a crochet hook and pattern

EVEN if you weren't born with the proverbial clever fingers, the chances are that you can learn to handle a crochet hook and follow a ready-made pattern. If you have done work of this kind, so much the better. In either case, you will want to consider the things shown above, for yourself or for very special friends whom you wish to please.

The handsome white dinner cloth and napkins with crocheted inserts belong on a table set for a gala party. The place mat is one of a set done in cotton crash with gypsy colored borders, just right for a gay, informal luncheon. Both this gypsy luncheon set and the raffia place mats described on this page are especially appreciated for terrace dining.

THIS YEAR we won't do anything for Christmas!

LUCIA MOORE

DID you ever think, early in December, "this year we won't do anything at Christmas" and then come up to Christmas Eve with a sinking heart and a dull feeling down where gingerbread cookies and mulled cider ought to be lurking, and wish oh so terribly that you'd bought a tree and asked someone to supper or for eggnog by the fire? And did you rush out to buy the last of the withering fir trees and dig up ornaments and guests? Or was it too late?

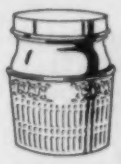
With me it was almost too late because of a hospital trip I had just made. Holidays ahead, even in San Francisco, looked dreary. And that couldn't be! We'd never had a dreary Christmas. Of course there had been strange ones, like the time we had had a hurricane in Hawaii and the roof let tropical rain come through and the coal stove wouldn't burn; or the year on the Mexican Border that a sand storm almost blew our shack away. The men wore goggles to bring our dinner across the street from the soldiers' mess and we couldn't eat the turkey because it was full of sand. Army people don't cry over misfortunes of that sort. At the time they are to be borne, and years later they may be even very amusing. But to sit by, wreathless, without garlands, without a tree simply because I must not make garlands nor stretch an arm to trim a tree!

What to do? I sent for a tree, of course. Even if it had to stand nude, we'd have the fragrant smell of it, the firelight shining on its branches, and the shadows of it on the rug! I rang a wholesale florist and found that gar-

Sparkling, Original BUDGET GIFTS in Finest Sterling!

1. **Pepper Mill** — A chef's secret in Sterling. Fragrant flavor and body of freshly-crushed pepper berries will delight any epicure's palate — but no more than this Mill will delight his eye! $10.00

2. **Double-Ended Jigger** — For the man who takes his cocktail mixing seriously — this beautifully-finished silver tool of the trade! One-ounce measure on one end; two ounces on the other. $5.00



3. **Mustard-jar Container** — Clever frame and cover in rich Sterling, to make a jar of their favorite mustard behave daintily at the table. $7.50

4. **Jelly Jar and Spoon** — Pierced silver frame to hold old-fashioned jelly glass. A charming little Sterling "incidental" that will blend with any pattern. $10.00

5. **Syrup Jug**—From an unusual Colonial antique, this authentic EXEMPLAR copy in finest modern Sterling. It's a twin brother to the museum-piece original—quaint, charming, really usable. $20.00

6. **Brush and Comb Set** — The luxury gift for *him*. Sterling-backed comb and brush, in fine leather case. $10.00

7. Mint Julep Tumbler, $96 a dozen. 8. Roll and Celery Tray, $15. 9. Tea Strainer and Drip, $5. All in finest Sterling. Ask your jeweler to show you dozens of other Watson Sterling "Budget" Gifts.

• • •

Write for free gift folder showing Watson Sterling suggestions and for literature describing table settings of flatware. The Watson Company, 3129 Watson Park, Attleboro, Mass.

Watson Sterling

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A NEW KIND OF IRON !
The amazing "Steem-Electric" cuts ironing time in half !
NO BURNING
NO SCORCHING
With this new kind of iron you can take washing right off the line and iron quickly and easily *without sprinkling*. The "Steem-Electric" *steams* as it irons ... won't scorch or burn ... safe on all fabrics ... won't leave a "shine." Pleat dresses ... iron woolens on the right side without press cloths ... block felt hats ... do dozens of wonderful things with the amazing "Steem-Electric."
• Just put in a pint of water, plug into light socket, and when steam appears you're ready for the finest kind of ironing.
$9.95
Complete with cord, stand and filling funnel. A.C. or D.C. (Slightly higher in Canada.)
RIDES ON A CUSHION OF STEAM
Steem ELECTRIC
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STEAMING IRON
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Please send me your Free booklet, "14 Amazing Ways to Save Money with the 'Steem-Electric' Steaming Iron."
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New beauty, convenience, safety. Graceful curtains of flexible metal glide open, closed. Allow clear view of fire.
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Going to build a fireplace? ☐ Yes ☐ No
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BENNETT Guaranteed FIREPLACES

CAROL: "Sue has the girls livid with envy over her new Rock Sharpe Crystal."
MARCIA: "Why my dear, anyone could afford it. Cost is very moderate."
Rock Sharpe Crystal
WITH an orange-blossom delicacy ... starry-eyed radiance ... is *Romance* design in the new Rock Sharpe Crystal collection. In the romantic tradition, for today's brides, this hand-cut crystal is love at first sight. It has a clear silvery ring, like wedding bells.
Sizes from goblets to cordials. Start a set, at 60c to 75c each (price depends on pattern and locality). At leading stores everywhere. Folder on request. Dept. H-3, Cataract Sharpe Mfg. Co., Buffalo, New York.

lands could be bought for fifteen cents a yard, which was cheaper than going in our car to cut our own evergreens, which we had always done. I ordered enough yards for the mantelpiece and for two wide doors. I called up the neighbors and said "come and help decorate our tree. We'll have a baked bean supper first." They loved the idea, and asked us to come to their home and finish their tree. It turned out that we had two trees to do beside ours and we began wandering at six o'clock Christmas eve.

But just a minute. Now that I'd asked guests to supper, six of them, I must do something about table and food. I put beans to soak, because we like our own home baked ones, but good canned beans would have answered the purpose. Then I got out last year's supply of silver "rain," a sheet of Cellophane, two silver candlesticks with candles, and went to work. It took but half an hour to make two of the loveliest small Christmas trees you can imagine. A nine inch Cellophane cone atop the candle in its stick, and coming within four or five inches of the table, formed my tree shape. This cone I covered thickly with the long strands of rain by tying them in bunches around the candlewick. I lighted the candle to soften its wax slightly so that it would "take" and cooling, hold a tree ornament of silver shaped like a fir cone.

Next morning the beans went into the oven for a long day of baking. I got out a pale blue satin table cloth (white would have done as well—perhaps better for a baked bean supper!) put a big mirror in its center, and my trees at each end. The grocer sent up a huge can of pop corn and I made popcorn balls, which I heaped on the mirror so that they looked ready for a snowball fight but were really for dessert. When pale blue pottery dishes and crystal goblets were on my table, and six white candles in glass candelabra, and baked beans, and brown bread (canned), the table was pretty and the food good.

A SOFT gray San Francisco fog made the night almost as lovely as a snow filled one. Presidio's huge post tree with its hundreds of lights shone down, and as we went to the midnight service in the little chapel on the hill I thought of those Christmases when San Francisco hadn't even been born and the Presidio stood, a Spanish defense by the Golden Gate, and the Arguello family prayed by candlelight in the old adobe quarters. And somehow my Christmas meant more to me because of candlelight and fog, and because I hadn't struggled, and hurried, and been modern.

Increase their number YEAR *after* YEAR

LORETTO C. KILEY

IT IS my desire to share some of the beauties of my poinsettias, in thought or imagination, with the outside world, and tempt others to cherish their Christmas poinsettias and enjoy their increasing number year after year. My window garden, planned in the Christmas spirit, lends pleasure and joy before the festive season begins, and remains long after its departure. I recently read an article stating that among other flowering plants the poinsettia comes first to mind. This article stated: "It is hard to equal as a holiday flower. It may be obtained from the florist in various heights and sizes, to suit every need." In this connection it may be of interest to others to know of my success in *home culture*.

Last year my poinsettia plants filled five windows of our home and produced twenty-nine blooms by Christmas time; soon after Christmas five more blooms appeared, making a total of thirty-four flowers this year, all in bloom at one time. In one window, the loveliest, I had one dozen flowers. The plants attained various heights and sizes, but the blooms were uniform, measuring approximately ten inches in diameter. The plants received the morning sun, facing a southern exposure. These lovely flowers shining against the glass and the gorgeous green of the leaves made a wonderful Yule garden.

After the poinsettia has completed its flowering period, about the last week in January, I place the plants in a rather dark, cool room, our basement laundry; then give them a little water—possibly every three weeks. The resting period lasts from February 1st to May 1st. I then take them out of the pots and plant them in the garden. When the foliage appears

[*Please turn to page 86*]

Lily Strasbourg Baronial Frontenac

Plymouth Virginia Hepplewhite

Unusual Opportunity

To fill in your active, inactive and obsolete patterns of flat silver. We have accumulated more than *three hundred* of these patterns, such as:

Bridal Rose	Les Cinq Fleurs
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This silver has been used and is offered in first-class condition and materially under the price of new silver.

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We have one of the largest stocks of unusual silver in the United States, same consisting of Tea Services, Compotes, Pitchers, etc., by America's Leading Silversmiths, also foreign makers.

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A Gift that will be Appreciated-

A GENUINE
Ash-Away
SMOKER

You could not select a more welcome gift for any home than a Genuine "Ash-Away" Smoker! Beautiful in their new mahogany, walnut, and modern wood-grain finishes that complement other furniture! Practical with the patented Ash-Away Dispenser that drops smelly stubs and ashes into an air tight reservoir! Smart in their gleaming chrome trim and exclusive styling! Priced from 75c to $8.50. Ask for "Ash-Away" Smokers, at all better stores.

PRESS BUTTON—ASHES DISAPPEAR

WRITE FOR BOOKLET SHOWING 20 NEW STYLES!

THE IMPERIAL

NAGEL-CHASE MFG. CO.
2811 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, U.S.A.

ZIM JAR OPENER

Patented
Tested and Approved by Good Housekeeping Inst.
"Opens anything that wears a cap"

Jars (including Mason jars), Glasses, Bottles, Cans, with screw caps, pry-up caps, friction caps, vacuum caps, crown caps. (Also tightens screw caps)
This is a wall fixture—swing it up when you want to use it, or down when you want it out of the way—it's always in place.
There are no adjustments to make. Made of steel for lifetime service. Lasting silvery finish, $1.00—Chromium, $1.25—Guaranteed.
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Burpee's SEEDS
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Finest Flowers, Vegetables, choice new varieties and old favorites—over 200 in color. 160 pages. Low prices. *Burpee's Seeds Grow.* Write Today!
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For Him ~
For Her ~
For Christmas

FOR your friends who have everything . . . buy a pair of "Kool-Grips" this Christmas. They're asbestos fireproof gloves, enabling wearers to shift burning logs, handle red hot grills, pans, etc., without discomfort.

Attractive gift package. Two sizes—one for men, one for women. At leading Department and Sporting Goods stores, or send money direct . . . $3.50 A PAIR

JIM LITTLE • Danville, Illinois

Start an HEIRLOOM DOLL this Christmas

MIRIAM HAYNIE

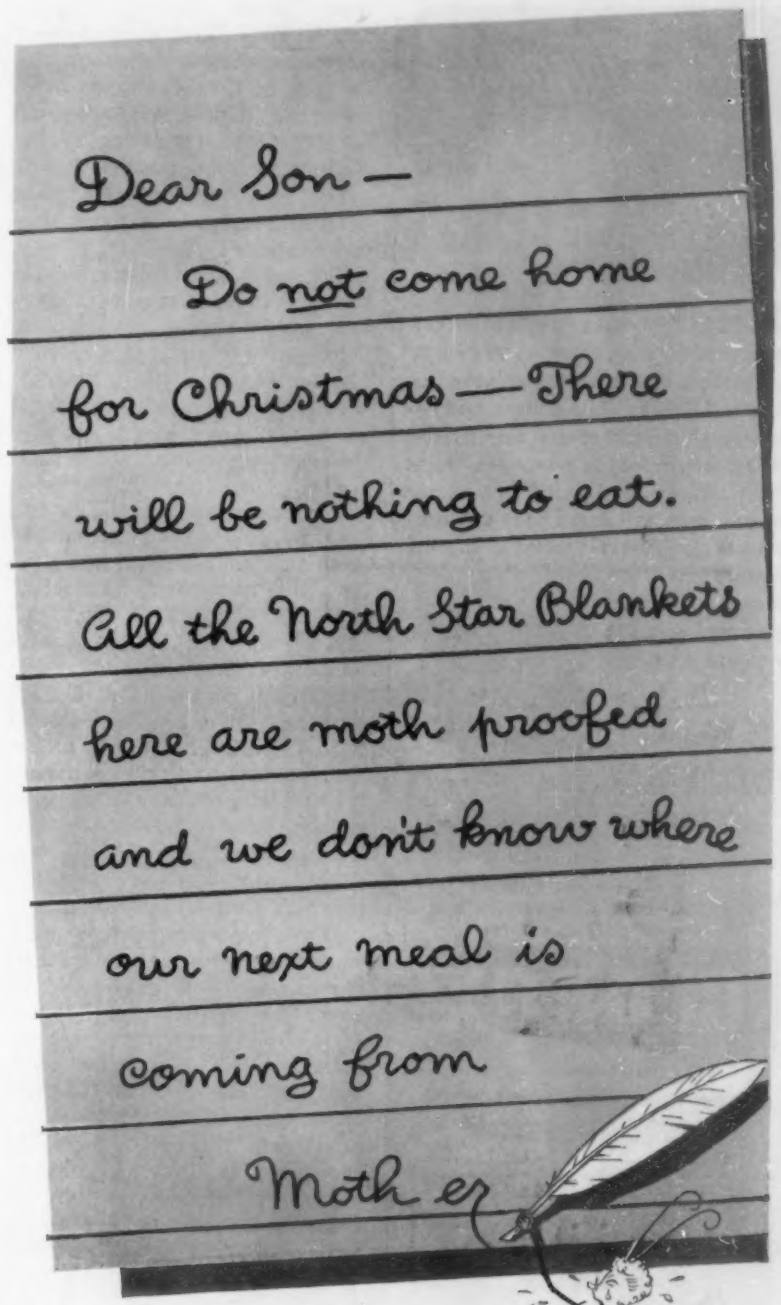
IF THERE is a little girl in your family or on your list, give her a doll this Christmas, but make it a special doll—a treasure to be played with, cherished above all other childhood loves, and finally kept to be passed on to her own young daughter or granddaughter.

Such a doll cannot, of course, be picked up at a bargain counter in a last frenzied minute of shopping. This does not mean that the doll need be expensive, but it does mean that she must be carefully selected, or else, put together with care and originality. She must be strongly constructed to withstand long, hard usage; of medium size to be easily handled; and a lady with personality and the beginnings of an interesting wardrobe.

My own doll, Florence, is my guide for these qualifications. She reached me after having passed through other childish hands. Now, after fifty years of handling and mishandling she still remains intact. Her china head sits firmly upon the body made by a great-grandmother who shaped her cunningly along hour-glass lines. The blonde china waves of her hair are as placid now as half a century ago.

This doll was the delight of my childhood. When I first became acquainted with her at my grandmother's house I was made to understand that she was mine to play with only while my visit lasted. When it was time to go home Florence had to be fully dressed, her clothes neatly packed in her trunk and both placed in the hall closet. Each Christmas morning we went to grandmother's house. Florence always awaited me on the hearth in a brand-new outfit. That she was not wholly mine did not matter in the least, in fact, it made her much more alluring and the visits to my grandmother's house were exciting adventures. Wise grandmother!

Florence always wore an underbody and drawers of white batiste with insertions of lace, red woolen knitted stockings and a short embroidered flannel petticoat. These articles had all been



YES, NOW THESE FINE WOOL BLANKETS ARE *MOTH-PROOF*

What a wonderful Christmas gift—for yourself or others! Gorgeous North Star blankets that are really moth-proof. What's more, these famous all-wool blankets will *stay* moth-proof for many a Christmas to come, no matter how often you wash and clean them. Expensive? Pay not a penny more for this moth-proof protection that makes North Stars last longer! All sizes . . . latest colors . . . at most department stores: $8.95 to $65.

Moth Proof

NORTH ★ STAR

All Wool Blankets

IT'S EASY to make baby's white cottons and linens snowy-white and to give them protective cleanliness. For Clorox bleaches white cottons and linens (brightens fast colors), deodorizes, disinfects, removes numerous stains from diapers, bed protectors, rubber sheets, panties. Clorox provides protective cleanliness in laundry, kitchen, bathroom... has many important personal uses. Directions on label.

"When it's CLOROX-CLEAN ...it's disinfected"

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AMERICA'S FAVORITE BLEACH AND HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANT

CLOROX

BLEACHES · DEODORIZES · DISINFECTS
REMOVES NUMEROUS STAINS Even Starch Mildew
PURE · SAFE · DEPENDABLE

SECTIONAL STEEL GARAGES
That Look Like Wood

$119 and up—
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Tool Houses—Storage Sheds
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Steel Utility buildings for All Purposes
Write For Information
JOHN COOPER CO.
309 Second St. Hackensack, N. J.

HOW TO FIX IT
—By UNCLE NED

HAIR-LINE CRACKS IN CEILING

QUESTION—Hair-line cracks have appeared in the living room ceiling of my two year old home. Can patching plaster be used for such fine cracks?

ANSWER—Yes, Rutland Patching Plaster can be used for fine cracks because it is unusually fine. Mix to thin consistency and apply with a paint brush.

LOOSE FURNACE DOOR

QUESTION—The feed door of my furnace no longer closes tightly, thus permitting fumes to escape. What can I do about this?

ANSWER—Build up the frame of the feed door with Rutland Furnace Cement as much as necessary to make door fit tightly. As Rutland Furnace Cement comes in putty-like form this can be done very easily.

MAIL post card to Uncle Ned, c/o Rutland Fire Clay Co., Rutland, Vt., for free booklet "100 *How to Fix Its.*"

made by the great-grandmother and were not to be removed *under any circumstances*. This went also for the black kid slippers with velvet bows which were sewed on her feet. The remainder of her clothing could be removed at will.

For me, Pandora's box could have held no more treasures than did Florence's trunk. In it were ruffled petticoats, flouncy dresses of cross-barred muslin, dimity and dotted swiss; long-sleeved, fitted shirtwaists of red wool, blue Canton flannel, striped, and figured cotton. To go with the waists were the ankle-length, bunchy skirts of chambray, serge, and flannel. There was an afternoon suit of sheer wool in shell pink: its short, full jacket hung straight from a round collar and was fitted by a tightly hooked underjacket; the flared skirt was heavily lined and trimmed with bands of satin and coarse lace. Other suits were made of wine woolen and gray-blue serge. All of Florence's clothes were carefully made and of designs so exact that they must have been replicas of costumes worn by grandmother. When finally I arrived at what grandmother considered a responsible age, Florence was given to me outright.

If you have imagination and a small talent with the needle, creating an heirloom doll should be easy, and fun in the bargain. First of all, you must find a head. Look in attics and antique shops. I recently saw a number of these china heads sitting on a shelf in an antique shop; they were old enough to be quaint and interesting but could not rightfully be classed as antiques and were therefore reasonably priced. Besides being interesting and giving your doll an "heirloom-look" in the very beginning, these heads have advantages in that the eyes cannot fall out or the hair be eaten by moths. The heads are usually rather small and so if the body is proportioned accordingly the finished doll should be about sixteen or twenty inches in length, which is a good size for easy handling. A homemade body is also strong and pliable.

Since current fashions again include the bustle, the shirtwaist, the nipped-in-jacket, it will be easy to give a daguerreotype-look to the outfit which you or your seamstress make for the doll. Of course, a pair of stockings cut from your discarded silk hose would be more suitable than knitted woolen. Decide upon a daytime or evening costume and make the underclothes accordingly long or brief, but be sure to have them ruffled and beribboned. If you decide upon an evening dress, add a cape of fur with attached hood lined with beautiful Christmasy scarlet velvet.

If none of these suggestions appeal to you, a glance through a fashion magazine will stimulate your imagination and give you authentic styles of the year. And, of course, if you prefer modern things, or have no inclination for sewing, there are many suitable dolls on the market. A foreign doll would be different enough to be a good choice. But if you possibly can, make it yourself and it will be more precious as a doll and as an heirloom.

"VISIBLE" GLASS MAIL BOX

IS THE MOST CONVENIENT, ATTRACTIVE AND MODERN letter box ever made.

- Contents Are Visible.
- Saves Time, Unnecessary Trips and Exposure in Bad Weather.
- Body Is Heavy Crystal Glass in Attractive Stippled Design.
- Harmonizing Rust-Proofed Hardware.
- Large Capacity. 12 In. Deep.
- Distinctive On Any Home.

If your Hardware Dealer cannot supply you, send us his name and $1.35 and we will ship prepaid. West of Rockies $1.50. You will be proud of your neighbors' admiring comments.

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We ask your cooperation.

Increase their number

[*Continued from page 84*]

I cut the plants back to the wood, cut the prunings into five inch lengths, and plant each cutting, as well as the original plants, in the garden. After about three weeks, and when the leaves are small, I place each plant in a pot.

In preparing the pots for the plants I place a piece of broken crock over opening in center, and over this a small covering of peat moss. With the soil I mix one rounded tablespoon of bone meal to each pot, plant my poinsettias, placing three or four of the slips in one crock. These potted plants remain in ferneries on our porch throughout the summer, where the morning sun is available. All summer we enjoy the beautiful foliage and in late September, when the weather and winds are harsh, and the nights become quite chilly, I bring them indoors and place them at windows facing the south.

The first flowers appear in time for Thanksgiving. As soon as I notice a flower starting I use small sticks, tying or forcing the buds toward the window pane. Of course, where a home boasts of a conservatory this would, no doubt, be unnecessary. However, in this way I obtain gorgeous symmetry and arrangement of the flowers. I water the poinsettias with lukewarm water every morning. A normal room temperature is required, maintained at approximately the same degree, and although air is required, no direct current of air should be allowed to reach the plants during the winter months. On the last day of January my poinsettia plants still retain several blooms in perfect condition and the foliage is still luxurious, but it is time to rest them. However, before taking them to the basement I cut off the flowers and we have a bouquet to enjoy for at least two weeks.

The thought which seems to be prevalent, that the poinsettia does not carry flowers a long time under house conditions, is incorrect, and for a housewife to discard them after the flowers have passed seems a deplorable waste of the plants from which flowers may be produced another year.

Best of all

—the family Christmas Tree

HAZEL CEDERBORG

TIME was when we went out on a Connecticut hillside and cut our own tree, choosing it with deliberation from many. To the small son this was a red-letter day, anticipated for many weeks each autumn. To us it was more or less of a ceremony. Those days are past, but the memory of them still lingers as we make our choice each year from the forests that have been cut and brought to us by train and truck.

The kind of tree you will choose will depend upon what is available. In some localities cedars are most popular. There are people who are partial to pines, though personally I don't like them. Their long slender needles make them difficult to dress, and there is always the possibility of the ornaments slipping off. Hemlocks are excellent, but fir balsams are finest of all for fragrance, whether growing in the sunlight of northern woods or standing in the firelight or candlelight of city homes. They have the power to take us out into the still snowy forests.

Whatever you choose, your tree should be in the garage or in some equally cool place to preserve it at least ten days before Christmas. You'll be sure then to have a straight symmetrical tree of just the right height. You won't have to take what is left. Then, too, its just being there is an exciting incentive. It stands there, challenging the attention and ingenuity of the whole family.

To make your tree different from every other in the block, you need not strive for a startling, bizarre effect. Just think back to the trees of your childhood. The magic of some of the simple things you found there is gone, to be sure. An orange or a tangerine is no novelty to the modern youngster. But strings of snowy white popcorn and shiny red cranberries and chains of colored paper such as every kindergarten child knows how to make, *are* new. Moreover they are valuable from the creative standpoint. Even the smallest members of the family with a little assistance can make them, and many other things besides,—bright-colored cornucopias, baskets, ornaments out of bits of tin foil. They won't be "smart" and probably even a little distressing! But in the making the children will feel that the tree is peculiarly their own—and what else is a Christmas tree for, if not for a child's pleasure!

The cotton-batting snow and the tiny candles of your youth were undoubtedly a fire hazard, and should have no place on your tree today, no matter how sentimental you are about the past. The arrangement of the strings of lights can be your boy's task. It will give him a splendid opportunity to put his practical knowledge of electricity to work and he'll work like a little beaver—loving it! There should be ornaments of course,—gay glittering baubles that catch and reflect the lights. And I can't imagine a Christmas tree without at least a star on top. If you can find one of those quaint old-fashioned angels, so much the better.

But there should be other decorations, too. If you have never used food, try doing so this year. You have a real treat in store not only for the family but for all who share your tree. Perhaps big sister specializes in sugar cookies. Cutters in the shape of an evergreen, star, wreath, and Santa Claus can be bought for a few pennies in any department store. With red and green sugar, white frosting, tiny candies, and decorettes, the most attractive results can be achieved. It's fun for the whole family to help with the decorating. Perhaps Dad will find hidden artistic talents when he starts to work with icing and bits of fruit on the gingerbread men Grandmother has made. And surely you have some favorite recipes for the boxes you'll want to fill for the children and callers who'll drop in to see your unusual tree. You, or some other member of the household, can run up bags of red tarlatan for the dried fruits and nuts. And it may even be that Grandfather will want to invite the neighbors' children for an afternoon of making popcorn balls and candy canes. Pulling molasses candy is always such fun for youngsters nowadays who get their candy so easily.

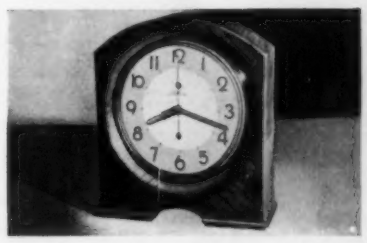
Whatever you do, let your 1939 tree be different. It should be a

Give every one

GOOD TIME

this Christmas!

NEW TELALARM, a graceful alarm, in a silver-colored case with black plastic band and base. A quiet, accurate clock for the bedroom. Modestly priced at **$4.95.** ***Talisman,*** the same design with translucent, electrically illuminated dial, is $5.95.



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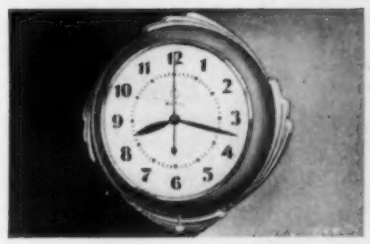

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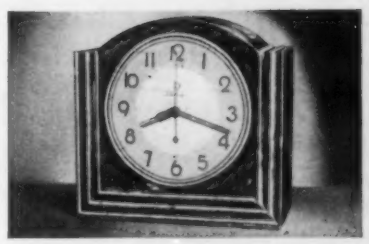

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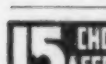

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FROM THE BROWNELL FARM IN OREGON

family project in which every one can share. Not just a symbol! Perhaps you'll wish to burn it outdoors on Twelfth Night and save a pinch of the ashes to sprinkle on the new tree, as they do in some parts of the South. That, too, is a lovely custom which will make this, the merriest of holidays, even more significant for you and your family. Is it not rather sad that I can write "let your 1939 be 'different' because it is not decorated entirely with ready-to-wear trimmings?" The things I have written herein are both simple and old as ideas—but new as Christmas customs in many American homes. Try something new this year—have an old-fashioned tree trimming and see how much more your family will enjoy this year's Christmas tree!

Thanksgiving ushers in the Christmas season

[*Continued from page 6*]

ornaments again by a coat of quick-drying enamel, first sanding lightly with a fine sandpaper. Purchase a ten-cent can of white quick-drying enamel, and tubes of the three primary colors (red, yellow and blue) in oil and make your own color combinations. All manner of lovely color gradations may thus be obtained at small cost. Thanksgiving decorations are apt to run rather strongly to red and yellow, therefore, do not forget to introduce other colors in the painted gourds.

The charming swag on page 20 was made as follows. The central motif, a scalloped squash was drilled with four holes in about a three-inch square into the back only. Wires were then run through these and twisted around the heavy swag cord which has eye-loops in the ends by which the swag is suspended. The other materials, gourds, pine cones, etc., were securely fastened onto this cord by small wires. Toward the end of these the two "backbone" cords were fastened together, and continue as one cord to the end where it joins the pendants at the artichoke-seed receptacle finials. This space was covered by pine needles wired onto the cords.

PUMPKIN FRUIT BOWL: Because the pumpkin is closely associated with Thanksgiving, half a large pumpkin will make a novel fruit bowl for a centerpiece, or if your table is long and narrow, the elongated banana squash may suit the shape better. In using the pumpkin as a fruit bowl, first line it carefully with wax paper. See page 22.

The lining is easily accomplished if a kerf is made around the cut edge of the pumpkin just inside the rind, and the paper gently pushed into the groove with the back of a thin knife blade. This bowl of fruits, small vegetables, and nuts will give the color key to the table decorations.

Did you see the Rye Crisp cart of plenty in the November issue? That too makes a jolly, colorful table decoration. Fill it full, almost to overflowing with good things to eat. Hitch up a team of horses to it, if fancy dictates. Such a cart also makes an amusing mantel decoration and when filled with nuts and candy and placed on a tray to facilitate passing will be greatly admired.

Great care should be taken to keep your table decoration low enough so that people may look at each other across it. Don't take the matter of height for granted. To you, standing, it may appear quite low enough. Get someone to sit across from you to make sure that it is low enough for the polite exchange of smiles and nods.

A grand thing about this type of decoration is that it does not wilt, so may remain in place to usher in the Christmas season. Thus it creates all through the month a lasting holiday spirit. When making the house ready for the actual Christmas decorations, they may be augmented by some more typical things belonging to that particular holiday.

The pendants of corn and small grains may be replaced with some made of pine cones and pine needles, brightened with holly berries, or juniper twigs whose curious berries covered with gray "bloom" will be charming in among the other greens.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., required by the Acts of Congress of August 24, 1912, and March 3, 1933, of THE AMERICAN HOME, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1939. State of New York, County of New York.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared W. H. Eaton, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of The American Home and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, W. H. Eaton, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; Editor, (Mrs.) Jean Austin, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; Managing Editor, F. S. Pearson, 2nd, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; Business Managers, None.

2. That the owner is: The American Home Magazine Corporation, (Mrs.) Jean Austin, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; Henry L. Jones, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; W. H. Eaton, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

(Signed) W. H. Eaton, Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 1939.

(Signed) Theodore F. Gloisten
Notary Public Nassau County, No. 1502
Cert. filed in N. Y. Co. No. 596, Reg. No. 0-G-375
(My commission expires March 30, 1940)
[SEAL]

Our funny Christmases

[Continued from page 81]

We made red paper bells, gold paper chains and popcorn strings to add to the more modern decorations. After Christmas we retrimmed the tree in suet for the birds to feast on.

The Christmas "build-up" extended to the *family* mixing and rolling and cutting and baking and frosting of Christmas cookies; to the *family* making of syrupy popcorn balls. Gifts were fashioned—a pale blue penwiper for Daddy; a necklace of huge glass beads for Mother; rubber bibs with pink crayon bunnies for Baby Brother. Our talk centered itself upon the *making* of a Christmas. We took toys to a day nursery, we saved cards for a children's hospital and Jean carried a somewhat bruised cranberry string to a department store Santa Claus. (He was too stunned to thank her but we saw him, later, displaying it proudly to a group of clerks.)

For days, snow had fallen. At breakfast we "discovered," in the fresh snow, queer looking, fresh appearing tracks. Reindeer tracks? Santa's reindeer? Could we follow? Find the North Pole? Santa's place? We hurried! Leggings, galoshes, ear-muffs, mittens, scarfs! We tracked them—losing the trail once in a while—through the yard, along the driveway, over the low stone fence, back again, around to our side porch. There they stopped! Beneath a window they stopped! We didn't hesitate. We climbed in. There—the North Pole! Great mound of (cotton) snow with a shining silver pole rising from its center and a shiny silver (paper) knob at the top bearing the sign N-O-R-T-H P-O-L-E! Soon we "'discovered" packages beneath the "snow." But the hilarity of our trip northward remained the central part of that Christmas morning.

The next year Jean was a white tarlatan Christmas fairy with spangled stars and crown and sceptre. Little brother was Santa Claus' helper with a red cambric Santa Claus suit trimmed in white cotton bands and jingling brass bells. The packages were placed within a three-sided chimney made of cardboard covered with red brick crepe paper and edged with drifts of cotton snow. The Christmas fairy sang little songs and danced little dances learned at kindergarten. "Santa Claus" followed, clumsily. Together they gave out the packages, each of which was *ob-ed* and *ab-ed* over by the whole family before the next was brought. The children took their responsibility like regular little troopers who realize that "the play's the thing."

Our next year's plans were feeble but they went off surprisingly well. A silly balloon man stood by the Christmas tree. In one hand he held a red string; in the other a green. Bill chose the red; Jean the green. Under rugs, over doorway, here and there and everywhere ran the strings—intertwining with the children intertwining after them. Bill didn't even wait until all the packages, to which they led, had been unwrapped; he was off to retrace his "Trail of the 'wed' string."

Treasure hunts, forfeits, a huge cotton snowman, and grab-bag games have followed. (A huge red tarlatan bag, filled with a family's gay packages, is lovely.) The year Bill started to school we had a Mrs. Santa Claus' classroom with silly questions and drills and exercises and Christmasy songs—and with packages given at frequent and unexpected moments for good (or bad) behavior. Another year, when Christmas followed close upon mumps, Dr. Santa Claus brought Nurse Mom capsules containing notes regarding packages. Every nap, every quarter-hour dose of medicine (water, colored with red cinnamon candies), every exercise, even every pain brought its package for the patient.

Our most elaborate piece of foolishness was a Pirate Hunt. Old camp breeches, torn shirts, bandanas, bright scarfs, smears of lipstick, burned cork, and huge curtain-ring earrings transformed a fairly respectable family into melodramatic desperadoes. Breakfast was eaten on clean brown wrapping paper. Green (ginger-ale) bottles filled with chilled orange juice, bowls of whole grain cereal rich with tropical dates, Christmas bread and large cups of cocoa and coffee made up the meal; weird *ad lib* discussions of buried treasure the table talk. After we had eaten we "discovered" that our brown table cover had a map on the other side—a cumbersome map of the house and grounds with strange symbols and signs and code language and threats. The hunt which followed was a merry one from attic to cellar. It involved some literal digging for clues.

Incongruous for Christmas? Probably. But pirates and buried treasure were, at that time, very

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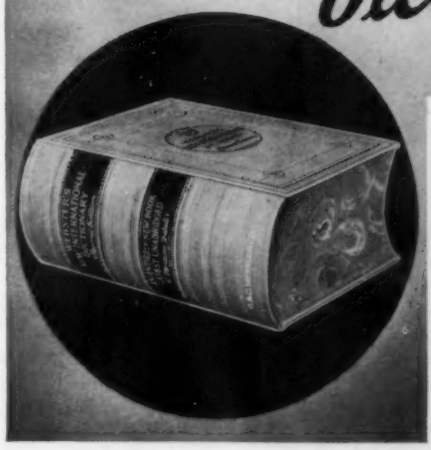

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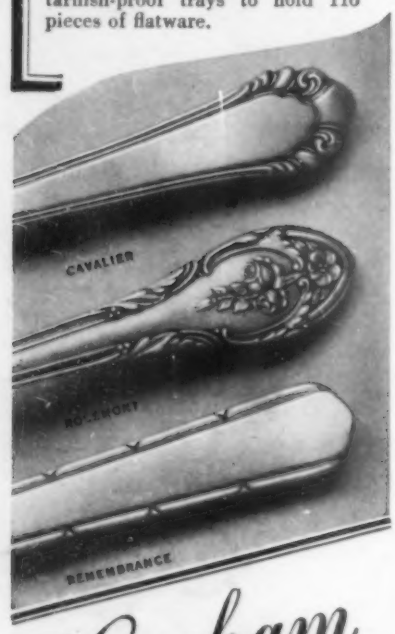

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"The next thing to Sterling"
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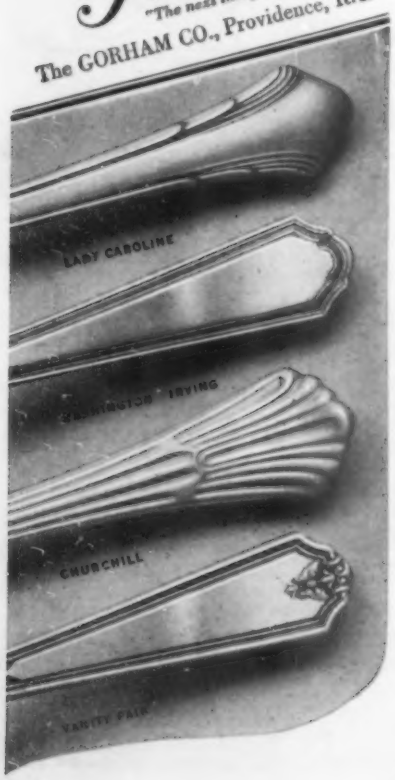

fascinating to our young barbarians. We felt that an uproariously nonsensical treasure hunt would be more binding a form of family fun than any orthodox Santa Claus antics.

This year, with an adapted parchesi-game-effect, will be our twelfth. They have taken in years when, as a four-year-old Jean once said, "Santa Claus *almost* brought us too much!" They have included depression years wherein we wondered if he might not be bringing us too little. The family foolishness holds the interest of two normally impatient children although I am not sure that it would do so if the custom had not been started during their younger childhood. It means, of course, that package-opening cannot be finished before nine or ten o'clock on Christmas morning. Our ideas seem crudely "pioneerish" yet we feel that they have been worth the effort: foolishness and the play-spirit are so much needed in a world like ours.

Our nights-before-Christmas belong to a separate article, yet I cannot write of Christmas without mentioning them. Even the two years in which we let a roomful of glittering toys dumbfound our child we had Christmas Eve services which she loved. Very simple, very brief. With Jean and her dolly cuddled on Daddy's lap, we three sat by a blazing log fire. We sang carols. We talked of the Baby Jesus, and of the shepherds, and of the Star. On happy impulse we wrapped a blanket around our "ready-for-bed" child and went outdoors to look at the starlit sky. Rather than break the spell of the night and of the firelight we each carried a lighted candle up the stairway to tuck our family's youngest member into her bed. With growing-up additions we have worked out these services each year, the children with increasing interest helping to plan them.

The children's opposition to changing from our unorthodox Christmases surprised us. Their depth of interest in these Christmas Eves surprised us too.

There is so much to a Christmas! Dinner with its surprises, the house decorations, the family stockings, the Christmas tree with the children's kindergarten work still holding a beloved place, traditions, innovations. While Christmas is, primarily, a *Christ*-Mas; it is also a festival for binding closer together the interests and affections of family groups. And foolishness helps so very much in this binding process. It does more than that. It takes away some of the over-emphasis upon material things which does come with our modern Christmases. The real reason we like family foolishness at Christmas is because we find it *fun!*

The Etiquette of Christmas Cards

FOLLOW the rules of common sense and you will remain within the boundaries of good taste and accepted etiquette governing the sending of Christmas cards. Naturally the address on the envelope, and your signature, unless it is printed or engraved, will be written in longhand. If you have your own special cards, you will probably have your name imprinted or engraved on them, in lettering to harmonize with the typography of the sentiment. Perhaps you will prefer to have a facsimile of your own handwriting signature. Remember that colored inks are popular this year.

Some couples still retain the formal "Mr. and Mrs. Lane" signature, but most younger couples prefer the friendlier "John and Alice Lane," especially for close friends and relatives. It does not matter whether the husband or the wife's name comes first. Children may be included, as "John and Alice Lane and the baby." If there are several children in the family, it is simpler to use the form, "The John Lanes."

The married woman who is known to her business associates by her maiden name should write it beneath her joint signature with her husband, unless she uses separate cards for her business list. Naturally, she should not use the prefix "Miss" when writing her maiden name.

As a rule, the card for a business friend or acquaintance is sent to his office. But if he is married and his wife is known to the sender, the card may be addressed to the couple at their home. A card for a married woman should be addressed to Mr. and Mrs., even though the sender is only slightly acquainted with the husband of the recipient.

In sending greetings to an entire household, one card may be used for the husband and wife, and separate cards for the children. If only one card is used, the names of the children should be written separately on the envelopes, below the Mr. and Mrs. line. An example of this form is—

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Richards
Miss Lucille Richards

WIDOWS AND DIVORCEES: A widow is addressed by her late husband's name—Mrs. Charles Perkins. Divorcees, according to strictest usage, substitute the family name for the former husband's first name, as Mrs. Curtis Perkins. However, many divorced women prefer to use their own Christian names, with or without their own family names, with the ex-husband's surname. Example: Mrs. Margaret Perkins or Mrs. Margaret Curtis Perkins.

Each year more and more persons adopt the custom of sending Christmas cards in unsealed envelopes, thus gaining the privilege of the third-class postage rate of 1½ cents. Under this classification, only one's signature and a simple form of greeting may be handwritten, — "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year," or "Sincerely Yours." These are all in good usage.—HARRIET DEAN

So many for so little

[*Continued from page 56*]

J. Sloane; China—Queensware by Wedgwood; Silver from Black, Starr and Frost-Gorham; Round cloth and napkins with Cluny lace insertion and edging from James McCutcheon & Co.)

In your home, if you wish to have a really large crowd, make it "High Tea." An all-white tea, with silver tea service and candlesticks, silver bowl with all-white flowers would be strikingly beautiful, yet easy to do. Use your very best "company" cloth. Napkins may be white, scalloped and of paper. Silver "snow" sprinkled on the cloth would give glitter and elegance. Or make it blue, silver, and white with a blue glass Madonna bottle as the centerpiece, surrounded by small blue glasses filled with nosegays. Serve white sandwiches with white cream cheese tops or filling, white mints, and small white iced cakes.

Or back again to club or church teas, why not a Wedding Gown Tea? A white table, a bride's cake to be cut and served, and a parade of wedding gowns assembled from family trunks and worn by young matrons or high school girls.

Think of teas as holiday entertaining. They may be dignified and formal or simple and unpretentious, but with either you can achieve a reputation for hospitality with so little expense and effort—and no mean consideration during the holidays—think how many people can be entertained in one afternoon! Three of my tea allies are on page 33.

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